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THURSDAY JANUARY 9TH, 2020

New management at popular nature reserve - see page four

AM slams knee surgery delays in Bridgend

PATIENTS needing knee replacement surgery in Bridgend are waiting almost three times as long as others being treated at neighbouring hospitals.

A Freedom of Information request from Regional AM Suzy Davies to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health board revealed that the waiting time for those patients attending Princess of Wales Hospital is 24 months, compared with nine months for those being treated at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant and Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil.

There are 772 patents waiting in Bridgend for knee replacements.

Mrs Davies was also told that patients in Bridgend needing hip replacements will wait between 18 and 20 months compared to nine months at the other two hospitals.

Similarly, for shoulder surgery, people in Bridgend wait 18 months compared to nine months elsewhere in the board's area.

Welsh Conservative Mrs Davies said that these waiting times for Bridgend patients were a disgrace.

She went on: "I appreciate that Cwm Taf Morgannwg inherited these backlogs when it took over responsibility for Princess of Wales Hospital and all health services within Bridgend last April.

"It is obvious that under the old ABMu health board, waiting lists grew and a recent FOI I did to their successor, the Swansea Bay Health Board, revealed long waiting times for operations for all of these orthopaedic procedures.

"It would appear that there was an institutional problem with the way ABMu operated. Cwm Taf have told me that they are attempting to clear this backlog by sending some less complex cases to private hospitals and they have also sanctioned extra weekend working at the Princess of Wales Hospital to deal with the complex cases.

Continued on page 6.

Charities benefit from Christmas Pudding Run

From left to right: Amy Seppman; Chris Jeynes; and Wendy Collie from Llamau.

THE renowned Merthyr Mawr Christmas Pudding Run saw hundreds gather in Merthyr Mawr, Bridgend, raising £2,235 for local charities, £835 of which has gone directly to the Welsh homeless charity Llamau.

Organised by the Brackla Harriers running club, the event saw runners brave the chill and the mixed terrain – including some thigh-aching sand dunes and many water features – to raise money for Llamau and other charities, including Bridgend Community Bereavement Support, Macmillan Cancer Support and Action for Children Bridgend.

Some runners took home a Christmas pudding as a race memento, and many opted to donate the equivalent value to Llamau.

The 30th Christmas Pudding Race was sponsored by Run and Become, Tesco, Brecon Carreg Water, Lidl and local organisations One2One Therapy, Waterstone Homes, Hunters Estate Agents and JCP Solicitors.

Many JCP Solicitors staff members ran, supported and volunteered with the business making a donation in lieu of Christmas puddings of £635 to Llamau, which went towards the charity's Christmas dinner for the homeless.

The Pudding Run organisers also contributed £200 from the profit made from selling t-shirts and jumpers at the event.

JCP's marketing director Amy Seppman said: "We were so pleased to be a sponsor of the Merthyr Mawr Christmas Pudding Run again this year, since this fun and challenging event is such a beloved fixture in the Bridgend events calendar and it does so much to support local charities."

"With a JCP Solicitors office in nearby Cowbridge, it is important to us that we get involved in community events."

Race director Christopher Jeynes said: "Thanks go once again to the McLaggan family for allowing us to use the estate to run the 30th year of The Merthyr Mawr Christmas Pudding Run.

"This race is always popular and it has a unique atmosphere. Many congratulations to all who took part in 2019 and who completed the course, thanks to the sponsors and the stewards who make sure the event goes ahead safely and without a hitch, and we are pleased that local charities will feel the benefit of our efforts again this year."

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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Vale MP 'not cleared'

IT appears that The GEM is once again printing misleading headlines about Alun Cairns.

Even after the complaints from readers about how you reported his resignation in November, you've now printed the claim that he has been 'cleared' on the front page of the paper.

He hasn't.

The article on page 3 actually says that the chairman of the inquiry into Mr Cairns' conduct felt that he was unlikely NOT to have known about the nefarious activities of his friend Ross England, but that no proof could be found that he did know, therefore the allegation against him failed for lack of evidence.

On the other hand, we still have the e-mail which, if Mr Cairns ever took the trouble to read it, contained information to the effect that Mr England was "confident" that he had got away with his misconduct.

In other words, the Conservative Party could go ahead and allow Mr England's candidature as long as no one asked too many questions, and Mr Cairns didn't need to worry that it would be found out and reflect badly on him.

As it turned out, this was bad advice, and it speaks of a sense of entitlement on the part of both Mr England and his mentors.

The fact that Mr Cairns chose not to question Mr England's candidature shows that, while he may not have been in technical breach of the government's ministerial code, he was certainly guilty of poor judgement in failing to recognise the seriousness of the matter. Ignorance is not a very convincing defence.

(Name and address supplied)

GEM NOTE:

Mr Cairns was cleared of breaching the Ministerial code, so the headline is accurate. The article, as the letter writer acknowledges, repeated Sir Andrew Allen's assertion that he found it 'unlikely' that Mr Cairns would not have been told about Mr England's conduct during the abandoned rape trial.

The GEM is confident that readers are able to read the facts as reported and make up their own mind.

Charity continues to grow

WE at Cardiff and Vale Fibrofighters are pleased to say that we have finally been officially given our charity number.

We would like to thank everyone for their support during the process and without you we would have struggled to grow as we have.

Special thanks to Vale MP Alun Cairns who, alongside Glamorgan Voluntary Services, has given much help and support.

We have had help from lots of other areas too, with backing from the police, Cardiff Airport and the NHS throughout, including the wellbeing nurses.

With all this help we have grown to be running three groups over Barry, Penarth and Fairwater.

We give support and advice to sufferers and their carers of the neurological disease fybromyalgia, and hope to expand the groups to cover all of Cardiff and the Vale.

All are welcome to our groups, which run on a drop-in basis

The Trustees, Linda, Monique and Alan.

Abolition of Barry Town Council

THE insignificance of the voting and meetings at the Barry Town Council: we find it using our taxes to see to the future of the carpet at Wetherspoons Barry, otherwise known as 'Carpetgate'.

The role of the Barry town council and its councillors is so insignificant to our community, and a waste of £100,000 of taxpayers' money every year. In general excluding the fine work of that at Llantwit Major, town councils are pretty pointless, to the extent that the political parties that these councillors represent in these halls, they are never mentioned on their political party websites.

Relating to the representation at these town councils, we never see their mention listed on the BBC national stats.

Should we start seeing discussions on a referendum for the abolishment of the Barry Town Council demonstrated by 'Carpetgate'? Don't we see the result of having less councillors an affirmation of focus as was seen with the unitary authority changes in 1996; with the amalgamation of the South Glamorgan County with the Vale of Glamorgan Borough.

It's time Barry Town Council went, they have survived in Rhoose without such a carbuncle.

Karl-James Langford.

Climate change, what change?

THE term 'climate change' was thought up by profiteers in my view to extract even more money out of people's pockets than they do now.

This climate change hysteria is very infectious and targeted towards the gullible. One small example of this is the promotion of these smart meters, what a nonsense.

The only thing these smart meters will do is to divert and guarantee payments to these profiteers, directly from your bank account to theirs, and in doing so making millions from a worldwide population.

The facts are that these significant weather changes are being caused by our universe continuing to evolve, nothing else. You have only to look back in time to the ancient carvings around the would, read the evidence in the Bible and other old scriptures; these will tell their own story of the tremendous changes over the world, over millions of years.

At this moment our global weather is quite stable and has been for many decades, but things are changing. Our universe has been here before and my predictions are that we are going to have tremendous water level rises because of the ice melt, and there will be another ice age in the distant future.

Our world has been too stable for a long time and something will happen, and there is nothing that we can do to stop it as our universe will continue to evolve.

What we do have is a very serious man made pollution problem which needs to be addressed. The world population needs to drastically decrease its toxic, polluting activities, which are causing tremendous damage to the human body and with a high possibility of early death. Traffic exhaust emissions are polluting roadside properties and causing all sorts of health problems and also death.

There has been a massive increase in traffic-related noise in residential areas, which in my view is causing a big rise in mental disorders such as dementia. Another toxic problem is the minute plastic particles in the drinking water and in the food chain.

Society needs to wake up and get a grip before all these toxins spread any further. We could have had hydrogen and electric powered vehicles years ago, but there was no appetite because there are too many profiteers worldwide with their fingers in the pie and they are not going to give up their means of vast profits until they are forced too.

Another serious man made pollution problem is the promotion by authorities, of these toxic, belching incinerators within highly populated areas causing untold health problems. These amateurs and their advisors in the Welsh Assembly and the Vale Council should have their ability to manage assessed by an independent, experienced panel to sort out the wheat from chaff before they do any more damage to our society.

In my view, at the moment we have the blind leading the blind and things need to change.

Referring back to the term 'climate change' which in my view is a nonsense: yes, the sea levels are rising and looking back in time, sea levels increased as much as 70 metres and then they decreased to a period when there was very little water in the Bristol Channel. All this hysteria/false news in regard to the term climate change churned out by the mass media to sell their nonsense stories is causing anxiety within society and needs to be addressed.

Graham Vodden, Penarth.

Rush hour fall – but 'thank you!'

AT the beginning of December I unfortunately sustained a fall when it was dark outside the new Woodlands development on Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys.

I would just like to thank the people who stopped during a busy rush hour to pick me up and take me home. Unfortunately this resulted in a stay in hospital. I did not obtain your names or addresses to enable me to thank you, but you know who you are. Thank you once again.

Jeff Webber, Dinas Powys.

Christmas wreaths helped Air Ambulance

ON behalf of the the Llancarfan Flower Arranging Group, I would like to give thanks to all who helped make, or who bought, our door wreaths this year.

We raised £1,115 making Christmas door wreaths in aid of Wales Children's Air Ambulance.

Our thanks also go to those who gave donations. Wales Children's Air Ambulance are very grateful for the tremendous sum raised.

Mary Grey.

Lost recycling bag returns home...

SOME weeks before Christmas, in the high winds, my new quarter recycling bag blew away.

In spite of looking everywhere I never found it, although it had the name of the house written on it. To get a new one was a longish process and it then had to be collected from Cowbridge library.

Today I came home to find it inside my gate. Thank you to whoever found it and returned it, I am really grateful.

Mrs EM Davies, Boverton.

'Voters thought otherwise' about campaign against Vale MP

IT was excellent to read the letter of support from Gareth Jones for Alun Cairns in last week's GEM.

Not for the first time of late have the media created a story on the basis of absolutely no credible evidence, designed to create as much embarrassment as possible, in this case to Mr Cairns, the PM and the Conservatives and to maximise the adverse consequences.

Not only did we lose a top Secretary of State for Wales we could have lost one of the country's and constituency's very best of MP's.

Fortunately the majority of voters thought otherwise. Added to this the undoubted distress caused to Mr Cairns and his family was appalling.

As for Tim Jefferson's musings based on his lengthy reliance on a Facebook quote, these merely reflect the extent of his chronic political naivety.

Peter Graham-Woollard

Thanks from Sightsavers

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the three million plus players of the People's Postcode Lottery in the UK.

Thanks to your support, People's Postcode Lottery has been able to provide over £500 million to good causes since 2005, which is just incredible. Over £3.9 million of this we have been grateful to receive at Sightsavers. Money raised by players has been indispensable in helping Sightsavers to fund vital, sight-saving work in some of the world's poorest countries.A cataract surgery can cost as little as £30 but it has a transformational effect. So once again, a big thank you to all the players in Wales for your support.

Dr Caroline Harper CBE, Sightsavers CEO.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

UNTIL JANUARY 16

Date	Time	Height (metres)
09/01/2020	05.09	8.9
09/01/2020	17.33	9.1
10/01/2020	05.57	9.4
10/01/2020	18.21	9.5
11/01/2020	06.42	9.8
11/01/2020	19.07	9.7
12/01/2020	07.26	10.0
12/01/2020	19.51	10.1
13/01/2020	08.12	10.1
13/01/2020	20.37	10.2
14/01/2020	08.56	10.0
14/01/2020	21.22	9.9
15/01/2020	09.42	9.8
15/01/2020	22.08	9.5
16/01/2020	10.32	9.7
16/01/2020	22.57	9.1

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Accusations of filibustering after calls for more scrutiny

AN opposition councillor on Bridgend County Borough Council has been accused of filibustering after repeating his calls for greater scrutiny in monthly meetings.

Conservative councillor Matthew Voisey said there was a need to change the local authority's constitution to improve democracy.

Asking a question at a full council meeting on December 18, he said: "Can the leader of the council please justify why he thinks elected members of this council should not have the right to ask questions in council meetings and scrutinise in the chamber the decisions taken by this administration?"

It comes a month after Cllr Voisey said democracy was being "closed down" in full council meetings following the findings made by a cross-party group tasked with a review of the constitution he had requested.

Cllr Voisey had asked for the power to question cabinet members following their announcements at full council, and also wanted the right for the three largest opposition groups to make announcements of their own, among other areas.

While councillors are able to ask questions on various items being discussed on the agenda, they are not able to question cabinet members or the chief executive on their announcements which are generally made at the start of the meeting.

None of Cllr Voisey's suggestions were taken forward following the review, with the cross party group instead putting forward its own recommendations.

At the December meeting, council leader Huw David said the right to ask questions at full council meetings was enshrined in the constitution.

He said: "The implication in the question from Cllr Voisey is that I need to justify why I think elected members should not have the right to ask questions – I have never expressed that view.

"I believe clearly in the constitution and that right is in the constitution. I may not have been clear enough at the last meeting – as well as asking questions, the responsibility for members is to make decisions on the budget and policy."

He said both the cross party working group and democratic services committee had reviewed the constitution in detail with a full discussion taking place at full council in November.

"The right to ask questions at full council meetings is enshrined in the constitution – I think the conclusions from the working group were right. Members have the right to ask questions at scrutiny committee meetings and at full council – and the right to ask any cabinet member or myself at any other time as well."

Labour councillor Jane Gebbie accused Cllr Voisey of filibustering, saying councillors could be better using their time in the chamber to represent their constituents. She said: "I'm really quite concerned we are saying we're not transparent in this chamber. As a backbencher I'm entitled to go to any scrutiny committee and ask questions of any cabinet member.

"To say we are not transparent is highly inappropriate – we debated this last time in full council."

Woman found dead in park

A WOMAN was found dead in the park near Waunscil Avenue, Bridgend on Saturday, January 4, police have revealed.

Officers are not treating the death as suspicious.

A force spokesman said: "We would like to remind people to be respectful and sensible in what they post or share on social media. If you see anything inappropriate please report it to Facebook."

Anyone with information should contact police on 101 quoting 2000003894.

Jewellery stolen in New Year's Eve burglary

POLICE are investigating after a house in Ewenny Road, Bridgend was burgled some time overnight on New Year's Eve.

A number of personal possessions were stolen including jewellery with great sentimental value after offenders forced their way into the property.

A red Ford Fiesta was also stolen, but was later recovered having been abandoned on Bridgend Industrial Estate near the junction of South Road and Queen's Road South, the following day.

Officers investigating the burglary are appealing for anyone who may have information or may have been offered any of the stolen items of jewellery to get in touch.

Anyone with information should call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously quoting reference 000609.

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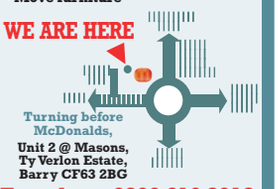

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AM's surgery

JANE Hutt AM will hold an advice surgery at Citizens' Advice in Barry, 119 Broad Street, CF62 7TZ on Saturday, January 11 from 10am - 11am.

No appointment necessary.

Valeways guided walks

ON Sunday, January 12 meet in Cowbridge town hall car park for 'Cowbridge Without the Cows' at 2pm.

On Wednesday, January 15 the Coffee Shop Strollers of Cosmeston meet at Cosmeston Country Park, outside the cafe at 10.30am.

The same day, the Coffee Shop Strollers of Llantwit Major meet at Llantwit Major town hall at 2.30pm.

On Sunday, January 19 meet at the cliff top car park in Penarth for 'Boats, Trains and Parks.'

Book sale in Penarth

FRIENDS of Penarth Library will hold a book sale, and free drop-in children's craft session with local artist Mari Worth, at the library on Saturday, January 18. It will take place between 10am and 1pm.

Archaeology in Bridgend

AN archaeology group meets at the Hope Baptist Church, in the school room off Station Hill, Bridgend, every Thursday at 2.30pm.

The group look at a different famous person each week. Next week it's Joan of Arc, delivered by the enthusiastic and knowledgeable archaeologist Karl-James Langford MLitt (University of the Highlands and Islands).

For more information, visit archaeologycymru@live.co.uk or telephone Anna Lewis on 07437 747402.

Llandow's Messy Church

A Messy Church will be held in Llandow Village Hall on Sunday January 19 from 12.00 to 2.00 pm.

There will be lots of activities followed by a meal. We look forward to welcoming all ages.

Winter holidays for schools idea is a 'non-starter'

THE cabinet member for education at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has said there is "absolutely no way" the local authority will take up a suggestion to shut schools in the county all winter to save on heating costs.

Charles Smith said he regarded the idea as a "complete non-starter".

Maesteg town councillor Phil Jenkins raised the idea at a recent town and community council forum, saying term-time should carry on right through the summer holidays with schools shutting in winter.

He said the move would stop schools having to close due to burst pipes and help save money when budgets were tight, adding children would still have plenty of time to have their recreation time in the summer due to the light evenings.

But speaking to the Local Democracy Reporting Service earlier this week, Cllr Smith said: "There is absolutely no way this suggestion will be taken up by BCBC.

"Closing schools through the winter and abolishing the summer break would not exactly be hugely popular with parents, teachers and students.

"I'm not sure what problem it would solve but it would certainly have many unintended consequences."

He said the key was about long-term investment in public services rather than short-term fixes and gimmicks.

He said: "If you take Finland for example, which has very cold winters, with snow several feet deep, it is extremely rare for any school ever to close due to the weather.

"And Finnish families greatly value their summer break.

"Coincidentally, Finnish educational outcomes are among the best in Europe and as a bonus, their trains run on time all the year round.

"It's all to do with the long-term investment in public services and infrastructure."

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

New management at Kenfig Nature Reserve

ABOVE: Kenfig Nature Reserve.

THE owners of the Kenfig National Nature Reserve have released a statement on its plans for the 1,300 acre site in Bridgend after decades of local government management has now ended.

The Kenfig Corporation Trust said it is still in negotiations with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and hoped to complete the transfer "very shortly".

It said: "NRW will be 100 per cent responsible for the Kenfig Nature Reserve site and the building will be refurbished.

"Litter bins and litter picking will be outsourced to a licenced recycling and waste company which will start from January 1 until further notice."

The nature reserve, between Porthcawl and Port Talbot, is regarded as one of the finest examples of a sand dune habitat in Europe.

On December 31, Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) lease expired for the reserve.

The local authority has cleared its items from the reserve centre with a final clean of the building taking place at the end of December.

It is unclear what has happened to the reserve warden who has 20 years of experience.

Local people have voiced fears that the reserve could be left vulnerable to vandalism and its unique status lost.

It comes after reports in recent days of fence lines being cut at the reserve and padlocks damaged, with permanent glue being put into keyholes.

John Hogg, head of operations for South Wales central at NRW, recently said it was continuing to discuss the legal, financial and day to day operational detail of taking on a long term lease for the reserve.

BCBC says it could not afford to continue to run the reserve and hoped a more specialised organisation would take over on a more commercial basis and make it pay for itself in a sustainable way.

It has previously said it first began the process of trying to appoint a successor 10 years ago, but after several years of not making any progress with the landowner it stopped.

NRW has advised people to report anything suspicious they witness at the reserve by calling NRW on 03000 65 3000, and call the police on 111.

Elizabeth Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

Police warning after spate of burglaries

POLICE in Bridgend are urging people to take measures to ensure their homes are kept secure after reports of a number of burglaries in the town.

Incidents in the days since Christmas, which are being investigated by officers, include the theft of a vehicle and forced entry into a property.

Detective Inspector Emma Hampton said: "We do live in a generally safe area, and we don't want people to be alarmed – however, I would like to encourage local residents to be vigilant.

"Anything suspicious can be reported to police on 101, or by calling 999 if a crime is in progress."

Tips on how you can help keep your homes safe from burglary include ensuring windows and doors are securely locked, installing alarms and CCTV, and keeping valuable items – including car keys – out of sight.

For more tips visit the South Wales Police website.

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Cheque presentation for support at firework show

ROTARY club of Maesteg president Gwynfor Phillips presented a cheque to Royston Thomas of Llynfi Valley Volunteer Aid for the wonderful support they gave the club at their annual fireworks display.

Celebrations as school gets £42,000 facelift

ABOVE: Olivia Parry and James Card.

PUPILS and teachers alike are celebrating after classrooms at a Bridgend school have been given a facelift and brought into the 21st century.

Nantymoel Primary School was built in 1928 and a lack of central funding has meant that some of the classrooms had become tired, but now thanks to a £42,000 funding boost from local energy company Pennant Walters, the school facilities have been given an upgrade.

Headteacher at Nantymoel Primary School, Mrs Alyson Jones, said: "Thanks to this incredible funding we have now been able to upgrade many of our facilities to benefit our 183 pupils."

The money has been used to completely renovate three classrooms which have been redecorated, have new furniture and also boast interactive teacher walls. A further two classrooms have been freshly decorated, with new furniture and blinds in place. The funding provided by Pennant Walters is linked to the construction of the new, but standalone, Pant y Wal wind extension farm near Ogwr Valley.

Year 5 pupil Brooke said: "When we went into the classrooms for the first time we all thought 'wow – it's a lot nicer!' It's more comfortable, there's more space to move around and work in groups so that we can collaborate more easily."

The teaching walls are now accessible to 85 year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils and the school is already reporting a positive improvement to learning.

Mrs Jones added: "Providing opportunities for pupils to develop as independent and resilient learners is of paramount importance. The upgrade we have been able to carry out puts the school in a wonderful position to deliver the changes that Curriculum for Wales will bring.

"On behalf of all pupils, teachers, parents and governors, I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to Pennant Walters – this funding will make a huge difference for years to come. Diolch o waelod calon i Pennant Walters – bydd y cyllid hwn yn gwneud gwahaniaeth enfawr am flynyddoedd i ddod."

Pennant Walters managing director Dale Hart said: "We are delighted to provide this funding to Nantymoel Primary School."

This is the second project that Pennant Walters has funded, after Cllr David Owen secured money in 2015 to allow the purchase of Apple technology. Cllr Owen added: "The school has gone from strength to strength each year under the leadership of Mrs Jones and her staff. I would like to thank Dale from Pennant Walters for making this dream happen for our school."

Bridgend club's centenary membership drive

BRIDGEND United Services Club is celebrating its centenary with a special membership drive that is offering one year's membership for just £15.

The club, also known as 'The Ex' or 'The War Office' is situated opposite The Old Stone Bridge in Bridgend

A club spokesman told The GEM: "Our club is 100 years old this year and we need NEW members to ensure we are around for many years to come.

"You do not need to be ex-Service to join our great club. Membership is just £15 for the year and forms are available at the bar.

"We have a great bar, two darts teams, a snooker team, a full-size snooker table and a fantastic function room where we hold regular entertainment nights. Just check out our Facebook page for the latest events.

"Our function room is ideal for functions up to 75 people with a bar and dance floor, and visitors are always welcome at our club.

"Anyone can join, just pop in to the club. It's the distinctive red brick building opposite the stone bridge. We look forward to seeing you. For more information, see our advert on page 25 of this week's GEM."

Global specialist company re-locates to Bridgend

FLEXITALLIC UK Ltd, the global sealing solutions specialist, is expanding its operations in Wales and the south west of the UK with the opening of new premises.

Flexitallic has relocated to a 3,500 square foot premises in Bridgend, creating its first manufacturing facility in the region as well as expanding its stockholding, as it continues to grow its support for industrial customers.

Led by branch manager Craig Roberts, the team includes business development manager for the south west Guy Boomer, and customer support Mark Jones. Flexitallic has created dedicated gasket cutting and winding facilities to provide customers with a more responsive and efficient same-day service. This capability is supported by a distribution service covering the south west region.

Having opened its original branch in the area five years ago, Flexitallic has expanded its customer base for its range of industrial gaskets and sealing material solutions, which has led to the requirement for larger premises. Part of the global Flexitallic group, the West Yorkshire-headquartered company has a network of UK branches in industry-focused locations such as Aberdeen, Teesside and Merseyside.

The Flexitallic portfolio of specialised sealing products include its gaskets designed and manufactured to meet the requirements and safety-focused operations of sectors including oil and gas, power generation and petrochemical.

Craig Roberts said: "From our base in Bridgend we are centrally located to support customers in locations including Cardiff, Port Talbot, Swansea, Plymouth and Southampton, to effectively, and rapidly, meet their requirements for both planned and reactive maintenance projects."

Gavin & Stacey clapperboard auctioned off in aid of children's hospice

A CLAPPERBOARD signed by the cast of *Gavin & Stacey* has sold for more than £8,000 – with the cash going straight to charity.

Stars of the hit Barry-based sitcom, which returned to TV screens at Christmas after nearly a decade, signed the piece of filming equipment used during filming.

The clapperboard, bearing signatures from the likes of Ruth Jones, James Corden, Rob Byron, Larry Lamb, Mathew Horne and Alison Steadman, was put on eBay in a bid to drum up money for Tŷ Hafan children's hospice.

Nearly 75 people lodged bids for the memorabilia with one lucky person picking it up for £8,100 when the auction ended on New Year's Eve.

The clapperboard, which was endorsed by Ruth Jones, was sold to raise money for the charity's £1.5m refurbishment project.

And the fundraising didn't stop there. Ruth appeared on ITV's quiz show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* on Sunday evening to raise money for the charity.

She told the show's host, Jeremy Clarkson, that she was "abysmal" at quiz shows and would be happy to just get four questions right.

But the former Porthcawl Comprehensive student ended up walking away with £16,000 after getting stumped on a question about James Bond.

A spokesman for Tŷ Hafan tweeted after the show aired: 'WOW, £16K! What a start to 2020 for Tŷ Hafan. Thank you so much, Ruth.'

LEFT: Ruth Jones with the clapperboard.
ABOVE: The piece of memorabilia which sold for £8,100.

Campaign launched to attract more foster carers

THE Fostering Network has estimated that 550 foster families will be needed in Wales to keep up with the widespread demand.

As a result, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has launched, #20 Reasons, a campaign to encourage people to consider fostering.

BCBC is one of eight local authorities who have joined forces to create #20Reasons. The campaign uses real foster carers and their motives for fostering to inform and inspire more families to consider looking after a child or young person.

The 20 reasons to foster range from making a difference to a child's life by giving them a sense of love, belonging and security, to being part of building a positive future and helping to keep a child in their local area so they can stay in school and near their friends.

All types of foster carers are needed but particularly those who would consider fostering teenagers, therapeutic carers, respite carers, emergency carers, sibling groups and children with additional needs.

Tammy, 36, is one of the foster carers supporting the campaign. She has been a foster carer for almost seven years. After years of trying to start a family of their own, Tammy and her partner chose to take a different approach through.

Tammy said: "I realised that there are so many children that need a loving home and that I had so much love that I wanted to give to a child so it just made sense that this is how we could build our family.

"I have a really close bond with all of the children that I've fostered. One of our foster children is now 20 and doesn't live with us anymore but still comes over for a Sunday dinner every week. Our current long-term foster children even call us mum and dad, and there's no better feeling than that really."

Cllr Philip White, BCBC cabinet member for social services and early help, said: "There are many reasons why people choose to foster, and we hope we can inspire more to become the lifeline children and young people need."

For more information visit *www.bridgend.gov.uk*

Here are #20Reasons to foster in 2020:

1. You can help a child who's had a difficult past
2. You'll help build positive futures
3. You can help a child reach their full potential
4. Fostering is amazing and rewarding
5. Meet other caring people - just like you
6. You can make a difference locally
7. Choose which type of fostering is right for you
8. Help keep a child in their school
9. Develop new skills and gain qualifications
10. You'll make a difference that lasts a lifetime
11. It's a different way to grow your family
12. Become part of our fostering community
13. You'll be a positive role model
14. Kindness feels good
15. Local children and young people urgently need a home
16. You'll help build a child's confidence
17. You can change career
18. You'll give a child a chance in life
19. Fostering gives you new perspectives
20. You'll give a child a sense of belonging.

Hip and Knee surgery delays in Bridgend

(Continued from page 1)

THE AM continued:

"But I will be writing to board chairman Dr Marcus Longley to urge him to see what else can be done. Leaving patients in agony for up to two years during which time their lives are on hold is not acceptable. In all, there are nearly 1,000 people in the Bridgend area waiting for orthopaedic surgery at the moment.

"And let's remember that the Welsh Government target time for all these operations is 26 weeks which is not being met at all anywhere within the board's area. So more work is needed to bring down waiting times across the board."

A Cwm Taf Morgannwg spokesperson said :

"We advise all patients that we aim to treat them within the Welsh Assembly Government Referral to Treatment (RTT) pathway guidelines, however there may be occasions where this changes due to an increase in Trauma and urgent cases, as well as seasonal bed pressures.

"We fully recognise how any delay in surgery can impact on an individual's life. Action is being taken to deal with any backlog of patients in a bid to reduce differential waiting times.

"This includes outsourcing to the private sector for the less complex cases and additional weekend working at the Princess of Wales hospital for the complex cases that cannot be outsourced."

Warmth and joy at Côr Bro Ogwr's Christmas concert

DESPITE the wind and rain, Côr Bro Ogwr brought festive warmth and joy to the audience at All Saint's Church, Porthcawl on December 14.

The centrepieces of the programme were the lyrical Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saëns, and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols, a piece notable for its solemn restraint and the use of less familiar but haunting traditional carols.

These longer pieces were interspersed by seasonal favourites including 'O Holy Night', Berlioz' 'The Shepherd's Farewell' and the Welsh 'Carol y Seren', as well as modern carols 'Ecce Novum' by Finish composer Ola Gjielo, and Bob Chilcott's 'The Shepherds Sing'.

The choir was joined by four talented soloists: Kate Reynolds (soprano); Olivia Gomez (mezzo-soprano); Jack Parry (tenor); and William Stevens (baritone).

The Palenna String Quartet, harpist Angharad Edwards, and the choir's resident accompanist, Glen Crooks, accompanied the choir. This was the first concert for Côr Bro Ogwr's new musical director, Ben Pinnow, and it was truly a great start to his tenure.

Ben not only conducted the programme with skill and energy, but demonstrated a strong rapport with the audience and choristers alike. It was a delightful concert and clearly very much enjoyed by an audience which had braved the elements for some Christmas cheer. Don't miss Côr Bro Ogwr's next concert which will include Maurice Duruflé's Requiem, on April 25 at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

Côr Bro Ogwr rehearses every Wednesday evening, 7pm to 9pm, at Tabernacle Church, Bridgend. Come and join us!

For more information, visit *www.cor-bro-ogwr.com*

Judith Fabian

Twinners host AMG as they head into milestone year

BRIDGEND Town Twinning Association is holding its AGM at Carnegie House on Thursday, January 16 at 7pm.

Officers for 2020 will be elected and anyone who might be interested in becoming involved is welcome to attend.

This year the group will celebrate 50 years of twinning with Langenau in Germany and last year it celebrated 25 years with the French twin town of Villenave d'Ornon, near Bordeaux.

A spokesman said: "There must be many residents in Bridgend, both young and old, who have been involved with the association over many years.

"It might have been as hosts welcoming and accommodating guests or as students and adults visiting our European twin towns. "Maybe 2020 is the year to resurrect your interest in this organisation and in spite of Brexit, this is an ideal way of reinforcing and encouraging new links in Europe.

"In February we will be welcoming 20+ teenagers from France as part of our student exchange programme; and in April we see the return, on a biannual basis, of Chorale du Lac from Villenave d'Ornon.

"A concert and programme of events has been organised for our friends and more details will be shared and publicised at a later date.

"Around 15 delegates have been invited to visit Germany in June when they will attend a festival.

"We are always looking for new members with new ideas, so why not start this new decade with a new challenge.

"Our secretary Mrs Madeleine Walters would love to hear from you via email at walters.sunnyside@btopenworld.com – or just pop in to one of our monthly meetings at Carnegie House, Bridgend.

"These are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at 7pm."

Three local charities win share of £120,000

THREE charities based in Wales have won a £1,000 festive boost thanks to nominations from the public: Greenacres Rescue Limited, Memorial Hall in Coychurch and Ty-Nant Cat Sanctuary.

The charities were nominated to win a share of £120,000 as part of specialist insurer Ecclesiastical's annual 12 days of giving Christmas campaign. Tŷ-Nant Cat Sanctuary, and Memorial Hall, which is a community building in Coychurch, are among the local charities set to benefit from the money, following overwhelming public support in the area.

More than 120,000 people around the UK nominated a cause close to their heart, with over 5,000 charitable causes up and down the country receiving votes. The 120 winning charities were picked at random from those nominated.

Thanking supporters in Wales, Mark Hews of Ecclesiastical said: "Here at Ecclesiastical, our core purpose is to contribute to the greater good of society, so charitable giving is at the heart of our business. We know that £1,000 can make a huge difference to the incredible work that charities do and we're looking forward to seeing how this festive financial boost will change lives for the better."

Community news from Llangan and Treoes with Nancy Davidge

Llangan Primary School

AFTER a busy final term, the children of Llangan Primary School put on an amazing show entitled 'The Grinch'.

They acted with great enthusiasm and sang brilliantly. The new term began on January 6.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

The Christmas Eve Service at Saron was an outstanding success with local residents and visitors from surrounding villages.

The Service was conducted by the Rev Nicola Thomas Black. The congregation enjoyed the ever-popular Christmas carols with music provided by the chapel organist and a vocal group. I was very impressed by one young singer aged, I believe, about 12.

Calls for partnership plan to secure nature reserve's future

WELSH First Minister Mark Drakeford wants to see a partnership plan drawn up to secure the future of the Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

Facing questions at the National Assembly, he said he expects Natural Resources Wales to work in partnership with public bodies and voluntary organisations and individuals to oversee the future of the reserve.

"We want NRW to engage with those organisations to come up with a plan that will deal with the management of this very important eco-system well into the future. That is the way that NRW are used to doing things — whether it is large-scale investment or whether it's in the work they do supporting local community groups.

"The approach we take, right across the spectrum, is to recognise the contribution local groups and volunteers make and then to work with public authorities to maximise the contribution we can make in that sort of partnership."

MP

Wick YFC finish the year on a high note!

WICK YFC members saw the decade out in incredible form.

Securing nine firsts at the County Eisteddfod Finals to win the much-coveted Anne Thomas Memorial Trophy was just the start.

Hollie Jones led the way with the club's project promoting the award-winning Ty Tanglwyst Dairies, as well as a first for her news article and Welsh poem.

Club secretary Alisha Major took first place for her speech on mental health in farming, as well as firsts in both the photography and sentence competitions.

Rhianna Jones was hot on the girls' heels, gaining a thoroughly deserved first for her incredible artwork and finally new member Thomas Morgan, at only 10 years of age, gained two firsts in the limerick and film review competitions with his delightful review of Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit.

Rhianna was also second in the instrumental solo with Lucy Roberts placed fourth in the tightly-fought singing competition.

It was certainly a night to remember for the club who were ecstatic to bring the trophy back to Wick.

The County Quiz took place the next day and yielded another first for Alisha Major in the 'Decorate a Christmas Wreath' competition. Having made the most exquisite decorations by hand, the competitors were given one hour to make and decorate their wreath under the scrutiny of the judges, followed by a practical test of the decorations.

Alisha was elated with her win and went on to represent the county in the Wales finals at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair, gaining second place, pipped by only one point.

It was a super effort from Alisha, who has had a fantastic start to the YFC year and is thoroughly enjoying her role as club secretary.

Having enjoyed success at Stock Judging Day, Hollie Jones also represented the county at the Winter Fair, where she was the under-16 highest scorer in the 'Giving Reasons in Welsh' award.

Hollie is only 14 and was thrilled to be presented with her award by Wales chairman Katie Davies.

With hardly a moment to catch their breath, the girls were straight into the county public speaking finals in Ystradowen. Alisha Major was delighted to gain second place in the Junior Member of the Year competition.

Alisha, Hollie and Rhianna also competed in the junior speaking competition where Rhianna, at only 12 years of age, was chosen as a reserve for the county team for her Vote of Thanks, having performed to an exceptional standard.

With one final competition remaining as 2019 drew to a close, the girls were joined by Lucy Roberts in the under-21 Brains Trust where they debated three topics unknown to them until the debate began. Rhianna once again did a fantastic job as chair.

Katie Davies, the chairman of Wales YFC, congratulated them on a fantastic performance and said they were a very promising team for the future.

A club spokesperson said: "As a club we were absolutely delighted and must thank Mr David Bassett for taking time out of his trip from Canada to train us. Thanks also to the amazing organisation from Gwyneth Thomas, the county organiser, and her exceptional team whose efforts continue to be appreciated enormously.

"We are currently adding the finishing touches to our drama for the county finals at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion, on January 31 and February 1. Please come along and support all seven clubs as we compete for the top spot to represent county at the Wales finals. It's a fantastic night of entertainment, a perfect occasion to fend off any January blues.

"As we look back on 2019 we feel blessed with the opportunities we have been given, with each and every member contributing to our recent successes. We look forward to joining our fellow clubs in 2020 and continuing the incredible YFC journey as part of what we think is the greatest youth organisation.

"To find out more about us please see our website on www.wickyfc.com or pop along on Tuesday evenings to Wick Village Hall at 7.30pm. We'd be delighted for you to join us. A Very Happy New Year from all at Wick YFC."

ABOVE: Wick YFC members with the Anne Thomas Memorial Trophy.

Alisha Major took second place in the Christmas wreath competition at the Royal Welsh winter fair.

ABOVE: Hollie Jones receiving her first place award at the Royal Welsh winter fair from Katie Davies.

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RRP £4.99
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RRP £2.09
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Airport blames Brexit for 'shocking' losses, claims AM

COMMENTING on the news that Cardiff Airport – owned by the Welsh Government since 2013 – has posted pre-tax losses that have nearly trebled in a year to £18.5 million, Russell George, the Welsh Conservative Shadow Minister for the Economy and Transport, said: "If this shocking loss doesn't prove that governments shouldn't own airports – even if operated at 'arm's length' – then I don't know what will."

In its financial statements and annual report for the year ending March 31, 2019 the airport declared a pre-tax loss of £18.5m – almost three times the pre-tax loss figure of £6.6m in the previous year's report.

According to Mr George, a spokesperson for Cardiff Airport reported that the loss was due to the collapse earlier this year of Thomas Cook, an increase in the cost of aviation fuel, and Brexit.

Mr George said: "That just doesn't add up. Trying to blame the UK leaving the European Union for these losses is deflecting to an extreme degree. The airport has been failing for years, and although passenger numbers are tending to rise they are still far below the high point of two million passengers in 2007.

"That's more than a decade to recover, and six years of state ownership; but still, it is posting sky-high losses. In 2012, the year before it was taken into state ownership, the airport made – by comparison – a modest loss of £1m. It's clear that state ownership has done nothing to help Cardiff Airport, but has damaged it. Even as recently as October, the Welsh Labour Government wrote another cheque, this time for £21m, to bail out the airport.

"This takes the loans issued to Cardiff Airport to more than £50 million, which is nearly as much as the cost of buying the airport back in March 2013.

"When will the Welsh Labour Government acknowledge that it cannot keep writing cheques for the airport, and cut its losses and save the taxpayer millions of pounds?"

Huw Lewis, chief financial officer at Cardiff Airport commented: "Our focus this financial year (2018-19) has been to build on the previous transformational year and further strengthen the financial position of the company. As a result we have seen a growth in revenue by over 34% due to improved commercial operations across the airport, notably increasing the departure lounge and retail, food and beverage offering, investing in our car park and car hire offerings.

"For the second year running we have returned a positive EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) which is a measure of a company's operating performance and the key metric of which airports are valued globally. The EBITDA has increased by over £70,000 with continued growth forecast for this current financial year.

"During this period we have invested in our operations and prepared for taking over the operation of the St Athan airfield. We have increased our headcount by over 9% to meet the growing business demands and brought forward our commitment to pay at least the Real Living Wage to all Cardiff Airport employees.

"In light of the continuing volatility and uncertainty in the global economy and specifically the aviation industry including recent airline failures, we have reviewed the life over which we measure our intangible assets and taken the prudent decision to 'write down' the value of these assets. This has resulted in an exceptional charge of £9.3m which is reflected in our accounts for this financial year."

AM awarded CBE in New Year's Honours List

PAUL Davies AM has led the congratulations to Welsh Conservative politician Andrew RT Davies who received an award in the 2020 New Year's Honours List.

Mr Davies, the Leader of the Opposition in the Welsh Parliament, said that Andrew had been made a CBE in recognition of his political and public service over many years.

He said: "Andrew RT Davies AM has been an exceptional Assembly Member and has justifiably earned respect from politicians across the political divide in all parts of the United Kingdom. He was elected as Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in 2011, and served that role with distinction until 2018.

"A proud Welshman, Andrew always wants to make sure that Wales is represented at key events, and that his constituents are always dealt with efficiently, effectively and with great understanding. The then-Prime Minister, Theresa May, said that, 'Under Andrew's leadership, the Welsh Conservatives have provided a strong opposition to Labour in Cardiff Bay and a strong voice for the people of Wales, both at home and in Westminster'."

In addition to Andrew's political career he is a keen supporter of cancer charities, is an active member of the Parliamentary and Assembly rugby team which raises money and awareness for local charities and good causes.

He is also the president of the Young Farmers, is a life Governor of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, and a Welsh delegate on the Council for the National Farmers Union (NFU). He also serves as a councillor for the Rhoose ward on the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Mr RT Davies said: "To have been included in The Queen's New Year honours list has come as a huge surprise and is very humbling. This is a fantastic honour and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of my wife, children, the fantastic members of staff and Conservative party activists who I've had the pleasure of working with since entering the Welsh Assembly in 2007.

"It's easily forgotten in the heat of today's political debate that families sacrifice a huge amount when a husband and father opts for a position in public life, and I'm particularly grateful for their unstinting and continuing love.

"I'm by no means done yet; and this award only inspires me to continue standing up for my constituents, promoting the important causes that are closest to me, and ensuring we deliver a better future for people and communities right across Wales."

Miners Pension Compensation

We are successfully claiming compensation for former Welsh miners who transferred out of the Mineworkers Pension Scheme.

Many Welsh miners were advised to transfer out of their British coal pension scheme to a private scheme which paid considerably less! This was bad advice and many retired miners or their widows have lost out.

OTHER WORKERS AFFECTED!

• British Rail • British Gas • Civil Service
• Local Government • Dockers • Armed Forces
• Private Companies • Electricity Board • Teachers

Example 1 - £62,000

Mrs N. worked for the **LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in **CARDIFF**. In 1991 she was persuaded by a sales agent of **STANDARD LIFE** to transfer her pension to them. When she retired she realised she was getting a much lower pension than her friends who stayed with the Government Pension. Compensation - £62,143.

Example 2 - £87,000

Mr G. from **SWANSEA** was in the **ARMED FORCES**. In 1989 he was persuaded by a sales agent of **SCOTTISH AMICABLE** (now the Prudential) to transfer his Army Pension to them. He was promised a better pension. His pension was actually much less than the Army Pension. Compensation £38,724.

In the 1980's and 90's many people were persuaded by sales agents to transfer OUT of their work pension on the promise of a better return, however this was not true.

If you know a coal miner or someone else this might apply to, please make them aware of this information.

Example 1 - £87,000

Mr C. from **RISCA** worked at **CWM**. After the pit closed in 1986 he was advised by an agent of the **PRUDENTIAL** to transfer out of the miners pension. When he retired he noticed his pension wasn't as much as his friends who stayed in the miners scheme. Compensation £87,649.

Example 2 - £48,000

Mr W. from **PONTYPRIDD** worked at **MERTHYR VALE**. After the pit closed in 1989 he was advised by an independent financial advisor to transfer his miners pension to **SCOTTISH LIFE** (now Royal London). Even though the financial advisors were no longer in business he received compensation of £48,000.

Example 3 - £103,000

Mr J. from **CAERPHILLY** worked at **PENALTA**. After the pit closed in 1991 he was advised by a sales agent of the **PRUDENTIAL** to transfer out of the miners pension. This was not good advice, he lost out as a result. Compensation - £103,759.

Example 4 - £112,000

Mr H. from **PORTH** worked at **ABERCYNON**. After the pit closed in 1988 he was advised by an agent of **PEARL ASSURANCE** (now Phoenix Life) to transfer his miners pension to them. He noticed his pension wasn't as much as his friends who stayed in the British Coal Scheme. Compensation - £112,638.

If you transferred out of work pension scheme and would like a **FREE REVIEW**, please either call us on **FREEPHONE**:

0800 988 7997

or return the form below

Name

Address

Tel

I transferred out of the mineworkers pension to

Please can I have a Free Review to see if I am eligible for a payout ✓

Signed Date

Please address to: Miners Pension Compensation Dept, Corries Solicitors Ltd, 11 Melroses Yard, Walmgate, York, YO1 9XF.

Miners Pension Compensation is a trading name of Corries Solicitors Ltd, Melroses Yard, Walmgate, York YO1 9XF. Regulated by Solicitors Regulation Authority no. 424101.

Youth project expands after police cash boost

A DIVERSIONARY youth project which has proved successful in reducing antisocial behaviour in Bridgend Town Centre is set to expand thanks to funding from the South Wales Police Youth Trust.

Roots, a subsidiary of Youth Works, already offers a weekly youth session in the town centre, which is funded by Bridgend County Borough Council.

But the facility is now able to offer a second night of activities, after the local Community Safety Partnership successfully applied to the Youth Trust for funding of £3,600.

Kelly Thomas, antisocial behaviour (ASB) officer for Bridgend, who was instrumental in securing the funding, said: "Bridgend Town Centre had seen a spike in youth-related antisocial behaviour in recent months.

"While we realise that ASB causes annoyance and distress to members of the public we also recognise that youth centres and youth facilities have been in decline in recent years, meaning young people have nothing to do.

"The subsequent boredom can lead to antisocial behaviour, and we wanted to provide a reprieve from ASB in the town centre while also providing the young members of the community with somewhere to go.

"Roots are thoroughly deserving of this funding, and I believe they will really help us to make a difference in the town. They are highly skilled in engaging young people and providing them with activities and events that they actually want to be part of.

"The funding will allow them to provide sessions on a Tuesday evening, in addition to the one already running on Wednesdays. The session will offer music workshops, recording and mixing techniques and provide young people with the chance to learn how to play the drums, keyboard and bass.

"The youth workers also offer circus skills, cooking skills, crafts and sports and exercise.

"These are free workshops and are aimed at engaging with local young people, providing them with a safe and secure place to hang out and socialise."

The sessions will run weekly, from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesdays, and from 5pm to 8pm on Wednesdays.

All local youths are welcome; the youth centre can be accessed via the building with the red door, next to the Zone on Dunraven Place, Bridgend.

Roots also offer youth provisions on Mondays - at Sarn Memorial Hall from 4pm-6pm, and at Pontycymmer Vetz from 6pm-9pm.

Mother's thanks to football coaching team

A MUM from Barry has thanked the three coaches who organise her son's football team, for their work in coaching the boys and in creating a great team spirit.

Joanne Linney told The GEM: "My son Sam plays for Island Marines Football Club under-13s.

"We have three marvellous and dedicated coaches: Dave Philips, Mark Frayne and Gav Price, and their sons Jack, Max and Sam, also play for the team.

"They give up so much of their time training twice a week, with matches on Saturday morning, and on arranging tournaments around Cardiff and even Ledbury. "They have organised fundraising activities, including bag packing in Tesco.

"They also have completed their coaching certificates as required by the FAW.

"They treat all the boys equally and ensure every player gets a game. The majority of players have been part of this team since they were four years old and have such a strong bond. They are a great team and friends on and off the pitch.

"Dave, Mark and Gav keep the team spirit alive."

Joanne continued: "Every Christmas our coaches organise a party for the boys which goes down very well. This year they played Zorb Football at Gol. It was a huge success and they absolutely loved it.

"I know that all the parents want to let our coaches know how much they are appreciated."

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An evil queen at Llancarfan – Oh no there isn't!

DURING the last week of term, pupils at Llancarfan Primary School performed two wonderfully polished Christmas plays for their family and friends.

Children in foundation told the traditional nativity story to a packed hall of proud parents and grandparents, enchanting everyone with their acting and singing.

The junior children put on a spectacular and not so traditional production of Snow White and The Seven Dwarves; and in true Christmas pantomime style there was lots of booing and hissing at the evil queen and plenty of laughs and audience participation throughout.

The children worked extremely hard – they narrated clearly, acted their hearts out and sang beautifully!

The sheer volume of lines and songs that they learned and performed so confidently was extremely impressive and we are very proud of them all. Watch out Broadway, here come Llancarfan!

Local man's book will 'shatter stigmas' faced by fathers

A MAN from Ogmore Vale who has been campaigning to improve men's mental health has just co-written his second book.

Mark Williams used his own experiences as a starting point, recalling that he found dealing with fatherhood led to mental health issues.

Determined to raise the profile of a condition that was, he felt, in many cases ignored, he started his campaign and wrote his first book.

In recent years, he has been collaborating with Dr Jane Hanley and the book, entitled 'Fathers and Perinatal mental Health' is the result.

Mark left school at 15, and suffered years of low self-esteem. In 2004, he experienced depression and "suffered in silence" for years until he entered community mental health services, where he was diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia.

He founded 'International Fathers' Mental Health Day' and the #Howareyoudad campaign to make sure all parents are having support for the whole family.

Mark has spoken on television and radio stations around the world while working with Dr Jane Hanley, and they have published articles together.

Mark was awarded 'Inspirational Father of the Year' and 'Local Hero' at the Pride of Britain Awards in 2012.

He was invited to meet The Royal Family on World Mental Health Day and was also awarded the 'Point Of Light' award by the Prime Minister in 2019.

Mark told The GEM: "It is only in recent years that there has been development in the awareness of the father's mental health.

"Yet, his mental health can influence the mother, the infant, the family and society. This book seeks to address the reasons why the father, or the potential father, could suffer from a mental disorder or illness during the perinatal period, his reactions, and what can be done to help him."

The book explores the way in which fathers' mental health has presented in the past and how it presents now. It looks at the father's attitudes towards his mental well-being and how he may self-manage and self-medicate.

Treatment options and types of medication are discussed as are the ways in which the father can access the best possible help and support. Stories from fathers who have suffered from a particular mental illness or condition help others to understand both the practicalities and realities.

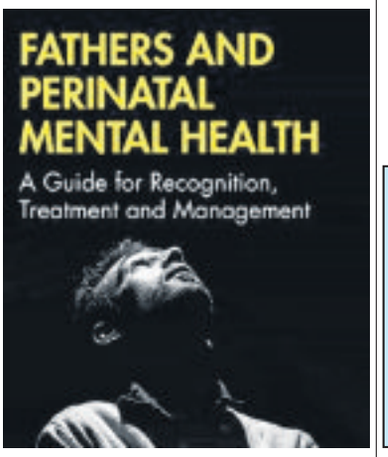
Dr Andrew Mayers, perinatal mental health expert at Bournemouth University, said of the book: "This exceptional book by Mark Williams and Dr Jane Hanley is likely to quickly become the go-to resource for fathers' mental health.

"Written expertly and sensitively, it covers everything we need to know about diagnoses and conditions, the impact on the whole family, infant bonding and interaction, and crucial information on treatment and management.

"This book will shatter the stigma that fathers face and help make it more likely that they will come forward to get the support they need."

ABOVE: Mark Williams and wife Michelle at a book signing.

RIGHT: Front cover of the book.



Riding club's donation to air ambulance

MILLBROOK Riding Club recently held its Christmas fun evening for members at Pencoed College.

However, before the fun and games could begin there was the important matter of presenting a cheque for £200 to a representative of the Wales Air Ambulance Service, who had been invited to attend to receive the cheque.

The money donated has been raised throughout the year by holding raffles at the club's show jumping shows.

Millbrook Riding Club is held at Pencoed College on a Monday evening from 6pm to 9pm; we welcome members of all ability, anyone interested in joining is welcome to come along on a Monday to pick up a membership form.

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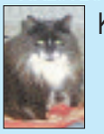

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Charity's thanks to generous donors

AGE Connects Cardiff & the Vale is coming together with almost 600 charities to thank supporters who donated through the UK's biggest match funding campaign, The Big Give's Christmas Challenge 2019.

Age Connects raised £6,201 to support lonely and vulnerable older people in the local community in just seven days.

Spokesperson Karen Steele said: "We are so grateful for the support shown to our charity. It makes such an almighty difference to us and those vulnerable older people in the communities we support. These contributions will enable us to continue to deliver services such as befriending, advocacy or welfare rights advice."

The Big Give's campaign generated over £15 million in funding for good causes across the country, matching donations pound for pound until the funding pot was empty.

Matched funding was provided by over 20 funding champions, including Reed Foundation, The Childhood Trust, Four Acre Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with charities raising additional match funding through their own network of philanthropists.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Sir Alec Reed CBE, founder of The Big Give, said: "The public's generosity to this year's Christmas Challenge has been phenomenal. Match funding has proved yet again to be an incredibly powerful incentive to give."

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Dog of the Week

MILO is a four-year-old Labrador cross collie who has boundless energy and is looking for owners who can offer him lots of physical and mental stimulation.

He is so much fun!

Milo is a very bright dog and is eager to learn new things, so training classes would be beneficial. He will need to continue with his doggie socialisation so he can become more confident around them and enjoy their company. Milo is looking for a home where owners either work from home or are around during the day, as he loves to have human company. Milo can live with children 14 years and above.

Training and behaviour advisor Rachel Taunton says: "Milo is a very spirited lad and has tons of personality. If you are looking for a dog to go on long walks with and will enjoy training, then Milo could be your walking companion."

For more information on Milo, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; or give us call on 01656 725219. You can also visit our website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Campaign goes on to help give a better life in Africa

THE most recent concert in aid of the charity Vale for Africa was when Barry Brass Band hosted a concert at Holy Trinity Church, where £500 was raised.

The cash will be used to bring clean piped water to a remote school in Uganda.

The charity supported eight optometrists and a doctor who flew to Uganda on August 24 for a six-day visit.

They were able to examine 1,116 patients in the week. Of these, 127 were referred for cataract surgery, meaning their eyesight will be restored.

A total of 461 pairs of reading glasses were dispensed and a further 235 pairs of prescription glasses were distributed. Mr Ted Arbuthnot, a Barry optometrist, a regular volunteer and spokesman for the charity said he was immensely proud of the team's achievements and was hopeful further funding could be secured to take another team to Uganda next year.

The team all pay for their own flights so money raised goes directly to those in need of medical intervention.

Barry resident Godfey knight said: "I have been campaigning to have a small voluntary supplement added to council tax, but only for those who have sympathy and empathy for the plight of thousands of children in the developing world who would benefit greatly from a simple inoculation against so many treatable but fatal diseases.

"Just imagine what a portion of that additional supplement could do to help charities such as Vale for Africa.

"Just because we can't see what is happening in Uganda and other areas in the developing world doesn't have to mean out of sight is out of mind; our loose change can mean the difference to them.

"To make a donation to Vale for Africa please contact Gareth Kiddle (gareth@gka.org.uk) the chair for Vale for Africa."

Trustee training – the essentials

ARE you a trustee of a charity or a voluntary group?

Perhaps you're interested in setting up such an organisation and would like to better understand what the role entails.

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) has developed a short training session called 'Being a Trustee – The Essentials.' It will cover the fundamentals and explain the duties and responsibilities involved, making it perfect for new trustees, as well as experienced trustees looking for a refresher.

The session will take place on March 18 at CF61 in Llantwit Major, 10am – 12 noon. Tickets cost £30 and spaces are limited. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite: gvs-being-a-trustee-2020.eventbrite.com or contact GVS.

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Veterans urged to make recovery resolution

AT a time of year when many of us contemplate making changes in our lives, veterans and military personnel who are wounded, injured or sick are being encouraged to take the first step on their recovery journey by finding out what's on offer in Wales from Armed Forces charity Help for Heroes.

The Community Recovery team delivers a range of holistic support including one-to-one advice, fellowship networks, sports recovery and a clinical liaison nurse, who work together to empower eligible men and women across Wales to live lives with purpose following illness or injury as a result of their service.

Recovery manager for Wales and Hereford, Shelley Elgin said: "Our skilled staff are experts in the field of recovery. Some of them are veterans themselves, or have family who have served, so they know the challenges which can face men and women who may find the transition into civilian life difficult."

"We know that the new year can be a difficult time for many of those we support," says Shelley, "so we would encourage anyone who feels they would like to start their recovery journey to get in touch with our team."

To find out more about the events and activities taking place across Wales go to: www.helpforheroes.org.uk/get-support/how-to-access-our-services/recovery-in-wales/.

ABOVE: Help for Heroes sports recovery coordinator Nick Vanderpump and fellowship coordinator Mark Reed.

Charity's appeal for unwanted gifts

THE festive season is one of the most generous times of the year, but the British Heart Foundation (BHF) is appealing to those left disappointed by Santa's offerings to donate unwanted gifts to them, to help beat the heartbreak caused by heart and circulatory diseases.

"We love the gifts you don't!" said Allison Swaine-Hughes of the British Heart Foundation.

"We welcome everything, from good quality clothes, shoes, handbags and jewellery to DVDs, CDs, books and children's toys. Electrical items can also be donated to one of our 180 furniture and electrical stores, so think of us when re-gifting that blender or coffee machine.

"If you want to donate a gift or cut down the clutter after the festive season, then just drop your donations in at your local BHF shop or take advantage of our free collection service. Your quality items will be saved from landfill and help us raise funds for research into heart and circulatory diseases."

If you've had an upgrade, the BHF can also take old speakers, clothes or anything that's been replaced by Christmas gifts. Last year alone, the BHF saved over 74,000 tonnes of items from landfill, which helped prevent 53,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from being released into the atmosphere. This included 15,000 tonnes of pre-loved clothes and an incredible 180,000 sofas.

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Swimmers out in force to support children's hospice

FOR the 36th year running, thousands of people blew out the cobwebs of 2019 by joining the New Year's Day Dip at Barry Island.

With temperatures at just seven degrees, over 2,000 people gathered to take a dip in the sea to raise funds for life-limited children and their families, cared for by Tŷ Hafan.

The town's Whitmore Bay was also packed with the hundreds of spectators who came down to watch hardy souls in fancy dress run into the water.

For the second year Tŷ Hafan took on the event, having been handed the reins by Barry man and lifeguard, Rob Salter, who founded the event 36 years ago.

The event has since grown in fame and popularity and now thousands of people brave the waters on January 1 and comply with the usual 'rules' – run in, dunk three times and run out, then repeat two more times!

Event manager, Jodie Harris, said: "We feel so privileged to be able to run this fantastic event for the second year.

"This is up there as one of the biggest dips we've seen, having reached our 2,000 registration capacity the day before the event."

Before jumping in the water, dippers took part in a warm up provided by Barry-based Cardio Core Fitness, and were watched over by the Whitmore Bay Lifeguards, who were on hand to provide first aid.

Jodie added: "It was wonderful to see so many people jump into 2020 with the Barry Island Dip.

"It costs over £4.4million each year to run our hospice, providing round the clock specialist care 365 days a year and to deliver our broad community programmes.

"We simply couldn't provide our lifeline services without the kindness and generosity of people like those taking part in the dip. We are hugely grateful to them".

For more information about Tŷ Hafan visit www.tyhafan.org/fitforfuture.

Photos by Andy Wicks 07855374478

Health Beauty & fitness

Let Charlotte take care of your skin

CHARLOTTE Wilkey has been trading as Pure Beauty since September 2018.

Due to her success, Pure Beauty has now expanded and relocated to Bank House, East Street, Llantwit Major (next to Major Nails).

Charlotte qualified as an NVQ Level 3 Beauty Therapist more than 20 years ago and has extensive knowledge in the beauty industry but prides herself on her skincare expertise.

She specialises in the CACI Synergy non-surgical skincare treatment range. These are completely non-invasive facials that last month won the best anti-ageing treatments in the Daily Mail Beauty Awards.

What sets The CACI Synergy above the rest is that it combines both micro-current and SPED technology (the use of LED) increasing the effectiveness of the treatments by up to 70% more than the microcurrent alone, as used in the CACI Ultra and Ultimate.

Charlotte also offers other treatments including waxing, massage and eyebrow and lash tints.

The range covers a variety of skin concerns including ageing skin (lines/loss of elasticity), blemished/acne skin, pigmentation, dry/dehydrated skin.

Charlotte offers a very personal service; her treatment room is very private and has no waiting room. She dedicates more time per treatment to her clients to ensure they have the most relaxed, comfortable and enjoyable time at Pure Beauty.

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Website: Charlottewilkeycaci.co.uk or Facebook: Charlotte Wilkey Specialist In CACI non-surgical Solutions

New pilates class launches in Barry

NEW Pilates Class for beginners start in Barry on Monday, January 20 at 11.35am.

The class provides an introduction to Pilates for complete beginners or those with a little experience. The course lasts for six weeks and costs £49. Booking is essential, as there are only 12 places available.

Pilates classes are a great way to take care of yourself. Pilates can help you to increase your flexibility, strength, and improve muscle tone and core strength.

Classes are led by Sharon, a highly experienced and qualified Pilates teacher. Exercises are performed on the mat to increase your strength and flexibility, improve your posture and body control.

Classes are friendly and welcoming. People usually feel relaxed and revitalised after the Pilates classes.

There are a range of classes, from beginners to advanced and private one-to-ones. Classes are held at St Nicholas Hall, Barry, CF62 6QX. For more information contact Sharon on 07830 085606 or email sharonpilates@hotmail.com.

Gym offers fun and friendly way to get fit

HYDROFITNESS ladies gym in Hood Road, Barry, is under new management and is offering a free two-week trial for readers.

There are no joining fees or contracts, just come and get fit on our Hydraulic Circuit and all our other equipment.

You can take advantage of our new classes: DanceFit, Pilates, Yoga, boot camp and more.

We offer a fun, friendly atmosphere, no men, no mirrors, just us ladies.

Check out the Facebook page or the website for more information.

If you want to get fit, lose weight or just make new friends, Hydrofitness is the place for you. Find us on Barry Waterfront in the BSC Unit 2, Hood Road, behind the pump house and round the corner from the Medical Center.

Telephone 07506 936346 or message the Facebook page to book your induction.

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Alternatively, check out 'Zumba', our Latin-inspired, easy-to-follow, calorie-burning workout classes. Enjoy a musical journey around the world, with a fun party atmosphere. To get you motivated, we are offering a free Zumba taster session: simply cut out the coupon and bring it along to one of our walk-in Zumba classes.

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Rebecca is fully qualified, having gained a BSc (Hons) degree in university and she is a trusted member of The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists, and The Health Care Professions Council.

At RS Podiatry, our services are available to all ages, from children to the elderly, – whether for the treatment or diagnosis of a specific foot condition, to simple nail cutting.

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Fitness guru's top tips for a sustainable eating regime for a New Year

FITNESS guru Joe Wicks talks to Liz Connor about why so many New Year diets fail - and how we can create a healthy new mindset in 2020 instead.

January usually happens like clockwork: a slew of new self-help books, articles and slimming blogs encourage you to 'be your best self', often by adopting a radical new diet that promises to blitz those spare inches around your waist for good.

The problem is, many crash diets encourage periods of miserable fasting and cutting out sometimes entire good groups overnight, and demonise food to the point where you're relationship with eating can be under threat.

According to fitness guru Joe Wicks - who has successfully helped thousands of people to lose weight - staying on these restrictive diets for a long period of time is often unrealistic and unhealthy.

Even if you do lose weight initially, it's not unusual to gain it again (plus even more, in some cases) before the spring comes around.

Thankfully, attitudes around diet culture are changing. A new survey commissioned by recipe box company Gousto (gousto.co.uk) has found that 68 per cent of UK adults believe the one-size-fits-all model just doesn't work.

So, how can you shed those excess pounds in a safe and effective way? We asked Wicks to give us some quick tips...

Why should people avoid restrictive diets in January?

"It's the time of year now where everyone wants to make changes to their life, whether that's with exercise or food, but the last thing you want to do - especially if you're someone who really loves food - is to go on a low-calorie diet," says Wicks, 33.

"Sure, it will work in the short-term and you'll probably lose weight on the scales, but emotionally it's going to absolutely ruin you. You're going to be so exhausted, you won't enjoy it and it's not going to be a sustainable approach.

"Try to think about a long-term vision, as opposed to a quick crash diet. Incorporate it with exercise and cooking with fresh ingredients at home; you're much more likely to succeed throughout the year."

Why do people fail at New Year's diets?

"Because they're awful, aren't they? Dieting is normally all about how little you can eat and how much exercise you can do. When you combine those two things, it affects your sleep, your mood and your energy levels.

"If I could give you one tip, it's to focus on getting yourself moving instead. I always tell people to start with 15-20 minutes a day of exercise at home; this will get your energy levels up and your self-esteem boosted. Exercising is going to have a massive effect on your food choices and your ability to go into the kitchen and cook yourself something healthy.

"Trying to do everything all at once is a bit much," he adds. "Focus on fitness first, and the rest will hopefully follow."

What other tips do you have for those looking to lose weight this year?

"Have a look at your portion control. I'm not saying to count calories, but to keep your plate to a healthy size. The good thing about exercise is that it elevates your mental health and your mood so much that you don't want to go and put junk food in your body afterwards.

"Meal prepping is one of the best things you can do too. If you leave the house without food, you're going to grab options on-the-go, which will likely be unhealthy convenience food.

"That's fine to do once or twice a week, but if you're doing it a lot, you're never going to truly know exactly how much you're consuming. The simple act of making some overnight oats for breakfast, or a salad for lunch can make a huge difference over time when it comes to staying lean."

What are you favourite ingredients for healthy eating?

"I really think it's great to have chopped tomatoes, coconut milk, curry powder, spices and tins of lentils, pulses, grains and beans in your cupboard. With these key ingredients, you can make really amazing veggie curries, or you could throw some chicken in there for some extra protein. Rice is also a great staple for making quick stir-fries after work.

"There's no magic fat-loss food; it's all about getting a good balance of everything and getting lots of fruits and veg in your diet.

"It's good to be a bit intuitive with it - ask yourself what foods make you feel energised and healthy? Don't think you have to jump onto a certain diet because everyone else is doing it."

Do you follow a flexitarian diet yourself?

"Yes. I eat a lot of veggie meals and with Gousto, I get four recipe boxes delivered per week that I can make at home. Three of those will be vegetarian and one will be meat-based.

"That's a massive step for me. During the process of researching and writing my veggie cookbook, Veggie Lean in 15 (£16.99, Pan Macmillan), I realised that you can get really amazing food as a vegetarian. I'm still not fully committed to going hardcore vegan though."

Many people feel like they don't have time to cook healthily, do you think that's untrue?

"I really think you have to remove that time barrier from your mind. We know full well that we can smash a Netflix series in a couple of days or watch our soaps, so we can all find half an hour to exercise or cook well - if we prioritise it.

"It doesn't need to be hours in the kitchen either. My whole philosophy with my Lean in 15 series is that you can make a really healthy and nutritious meal in just 15 minutes, and have some leftover for lunch the next day.

"It's that kind of mentality of prepping in advanced and being organised that works in the long-run."

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As seen through the eyes of Team F+R

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A colour consultation is the easiest way to refresh your image as you learn which colours suit you and boost your confidence instantly. As well as transforming your personal image, knowing the right colours to wear will save you time and money shopping.

A recent client commented: "Really enjoyed my colour analysis and make-up consultation with Charlotte and feel so much more confident when I go shopping for clothes. Thank you for a lovely afternoon!"

Charlotte is also in demand giving presentations to WIs and organisations throughout south Wales.

Recent clients include Case Management Cymru and Pentyrch WI: 'Lovely to meet you last night. Thank you very much for a very professional and interesting presentation. Pentyrch WI ladies very much enjoyed the interaction and will pursue a consultation with you!'

For more information or to book a consultation or presentation, please email Charlotte@SimplyYou.org.uk or call 07974 820288.

Professional expertise to address hearing difficulties

MARINA, the founder of Clear Hearing Solution, currently practices as a Senior Audiologist in the NHS, as well as offering her professional expertise in the private sector.

She gained a BSc in Audiology from Swansea University and then went on to attend a lay-counsellors training, approved by the British Tinnitus Association, following master classes in Advanced Diagnostic Audiology and Rehabilitation, and Balance Disorders and Rehabilitation from Cardiff Metropolitan University.

She also became a Micro Suction specialist. Marina draws on 14 years' experience in the field of Audiology to provide excellent patient care, guaranteeing the use of evidence-based practice in her service.

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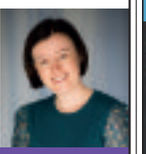
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Generous Sony workers go above and beyond for charity

STAFF at Sony UK Technology Centre (UK TEC) donated over 100 gifts for three local charities in the lead up to Christmas.

Staff at the Pencoed facility collected for Bridgend Foster Care, Calan DVS – a charity in Bridgend that supports women and children affected by domestic abuse, and Llamau, who work to eradicate homelessness for young people and vulnerable women in Wales.

As well as the gift collection, staff at Sony UK TEC have had a busy few months raising a total of £1,169 between the Pink Ribbon Foundation, Bobath Wales and the Movember Foundation.

The run up to Christmas had staff taking part in a bake sale, two 'Wear It Pink' days and ribbon sales in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Sony team raised £477 in total for the Pink Ribbon Foundation, £160 for Bobath Wales and £532 for the Movember Foundation.

Bex Stones, from Calan DVS, said: "The gifts that have been so generously donated will make such a huge difference to our parents who are fleeing domestic abuse. Most of them have been financially controlled and isolated from family and friends so they have no money and nobody to turn to.

"We also have children come who want to give gifts to their mothers so it's really special that we can help them to do that."

Angharad Howe, from Llamau, added: "We are so thankful to Sony for their generosity. We depend on donations and fundraising for our women and this really will brighten Christmas for them."

Gerald Kelly of Sony said: "We are so proud of the effort put in by our team in aid of such fantastic charities. We wanted to make sure that the most vulnerable people within our community received a little festive cheer and we were delighted to see the whole facility get involved in this initiative."

Prepare your garden for harsh weather

THE UK hasn't experienced a big freeze so far this year, however weather experts are predicting harsh months ahead, so it's important to prepare, and that includes keeping your garden in check.

Experts at Housesimple, the online estate agent, have shared five simple steps on how everyone - even the less experienced gardeners among us - can prepare and maintain our gardens this winter.

Protection, protection, protection

During winter, it is vital to weatherproof your garden: by potting vulnerable plants and taking them indoors, storing them in your shed or wrapping them in bubble wrap, you can help protect them and their roots against frost and keep them safe. Adding a twine or a support system can protect your plants and small trees against the wind while putting garden furniture into storage or covering them with plastic will also ensure that they aren't damaged during harsh conditions.

Choose your plants wisely

Choosing the right plant is key, and plants like tulips and daffodils will only flower in the spring. However, plants like heather and pansies do well all year round. Edible plants such as cabbage, watercress, beetroot, and other hearty specimens are perfect to grow through winter months as well.

Look after your soil

If you are green-fingered, you know that the winter months can be damaging to your soil. Having raised flower and plant beds can provide you with maximum space and more control during the winter months. Checking your soil's pH levels is crucial, especially if you're a regular compost user. Compost gradually increases the acidity of your soil and can throw your levels off, so adding lime in the winter might be recommended. Using mulch can also help keep your soil warm and moist by acting as an insulator for your plants.

Keep things clear

During the autumn and winter months, there is a lot of fallen leaves and garden debris. By regularly cleaning pathways and garden spaces, you can keep areas clean and accessible. However, don't bin these, leaf matter can be composted and used on the soil once spring arrives.

Look after the wildlife

Everybody's garden is a mini eco-system and it is important to look after and support this, especially during the colder months. Leave out feeders for birds and ensure that they have birdbaths available, and make sure that ponds and water features aren't frozen over - you'd be surprised at how many animals will use them as water supplies. If you have a bonfire or fireworks display, make sure that there aren't any animals hibernating nearby.

Sam Mitchell, CEO at Housesimple, adds: "It's important that even during the winter months, gardens are maintained. We still find that house buyers are scoping out properties during the colder periods - and a messy garden can be a real put off.

"There is no guarantee that your garden will be beautiful all year round, and it can be time-consuming, but you can keep it alive and looking good with a little bit of prep. Investing in your garden can raise your property's value by an average of £2,500 so why not cash in on your property's hidden value."

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www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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It may take longer to rehouse you if you are awarded medical priority as there is a shortage of accessible and adapted homes in the Vale.

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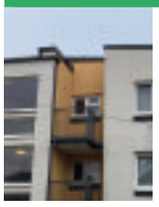

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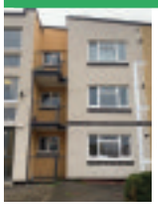

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H4U reference 213669
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- Wet Room

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H4U reference 232782
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- Step in Shower

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- Level access shower
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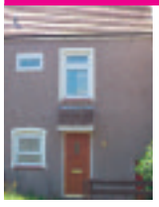

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Expressions of interest are invited for the following developments and you will need to be a member of Homes4u in order to be considered. A local lettings policy applies to all. Allocations are based on highest priority connection to the area, then banding and date. You will need to ring the Contact Centre on 01446 700111 in order to express your interest and you will be asked a series of questions regarding your local connection to the area and you will need to provide full details.

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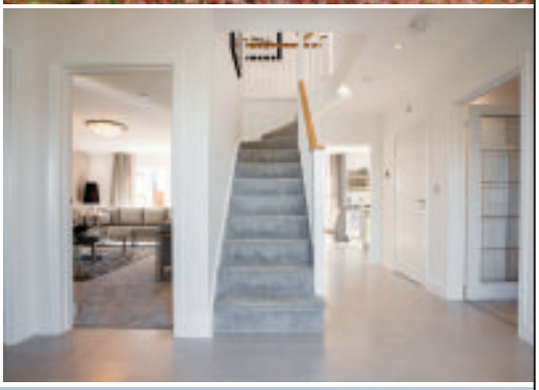
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

"This year...

we'll buy new in the Vale of Glamorgan



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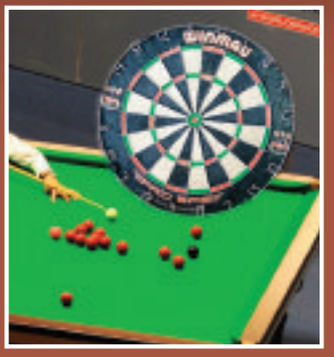

Club Teams

We have 2 darts teams and a snooker team - full size snooker table and snooker room.

Pop in to see us, Membership Forms available at the bar or contact 648728 or 07947 573478 for further information on any of the Club's activities.

Hotel chain is giving youngsters chance to become a published author

PREMIER Inn is launching the UK's first-ever 'wake up-time' story book for children, inspiring children to start the day in the best way possible; and is looking for young people in Wales to take part.

The hotel company is searching for young UK literary talent to help it publish a children's short story book packed with original tales. It hopes the challenge will be an ideal activity for young people this New Year. Part of the book will be dedicated to bedtime stories, while – uniquely – the other part will be stories designed to be read in the morning – to inspire young people to get their day off to the best possible start.

The budget hotel chain is encouraging children and young people 15 and under to submit an original 500-word short story; either round the theme of relaxation or inspiration. Young people are invited to let their imaginations run riot – and stories can be inspired by their own real-life experiences or something from the depths of their imaginations.

The hotel company will publish a diverse collection of tales, so stories revolving around friendship, families, animals or even science fiction are all welcome, providing they slot into the themes above.

The competition will run through to early 2020. Premier Inn experts and an esteemed panel of judges will crown national prize-winners in two categories: under 10s and ages 11-15. In addition, there will be 12 regional runners-up, celebrating literary brilliance across the UK.

To launch the nationwide competition in the lead up to Christmas, children being cared for at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) were treated to story readings by Father Christmas and his festive elves. Premier Inn is a longstanding supporter of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity (GOSH Charity) and the winning stories will be available for a donation, with all proceeds donated to GOSH, which treats children from all over the UK.

Simon Ewins of Premier Inn UK said: "We're all a huge fan of the traditional bedtime story and as a great night's sleep is also all about setting you up for the day ahead, we thought it would be a fun twist to launch the UK's first 'wake up-time' story collection. The UK is bursting with talented young people - we can't wait to start receiving the stories and we hope children in Wales really enjoy getting involved.".

Amit Aggarwal, of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity said: "It's brilliant that money raised through Premier Inn's short story writing competition will benefit children and young people treated at GOSH, as stories that dive into the imagination can be a useful distraction for patients at the hospital. We look forward to reading the fantastic entries to this competition."

The winning wordsmiths work will then be published and the prize also includes a two-night stay at a Premier Inn of the winner's choice. To submit a 500-word short story, and to check the deadline, young authors can email StoryPremierInn@golin.com.

AM welcomes £3billion funding for farmers

ABOVE: Andrew RT Davies.

BELOW: Sajid Javid.

COMMENTING on the news that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid, has guaranteed just under £3 billion over two years for British farmers – including some £243 million for farmers in Wales – the Shadow Minister for the Environment in the Welsh Parliament, Andrew RT Davies said: "This commitment is a down payment on the Welsh Conservatives' Westminster manifesto pledge to guarantee funding for the farming community during the lifetime of this UK Parliament (2024)."

The money – to be spread over two years – will be used to support farmers when the UK leaves the European Union and the Common Agricultural Policy direct payments scheme next year.

It will allow funding for direct payments for 2020 to continue at the same level as this year, and supplement the remaining EU funding that farmers will receive for development projects until 2023.

Mr Davies continued: "It's now high time that the tired Welsh Labour Government in Cardiff Bay raised its game and started to deliver for the rural economy of Wales, something to date they and their little helpers Plaid and the Lib Dems have spectacularly failed to do for 20 years of devolution."

Mr Javid said: "When we leave the EU and are freed from the Common Agricultural Policy, we will be able to support our vital rural communities – who are a cornerstone of life in the UK – with a fairer and less bureaucratic system.

"Farmers can enter the new year with confidence that they have our backing and will be able to thrive after Brexit." Therese Villiers, Environment Secretary, added: "Outside the EU we will have a simpler, fairer funding system – one that rewards farmers for enhancing our environment and safeguarding our high animal welfare standards.

"We are committed to making sure our rural communities feel the benefits of Brexit and will ensure our farmers get a better deal."

How to get your own feel-good garden

GARDENING is well known to be good for body and soul – it keeps you physically active, and just being outdoors is a natural mood booster that also provides your body with doses of sunlight and vitamin D.

Creating your own health and wellbeing garden can be as easy as making a natural snug that can be a place in your existing outdoor space for meditation and mindfulness. Dotting focal points around the garden can also help contemplation – clumps of lavender, grasses swaying in the breeze or zen-like trees such as Japanese maples.

By making a few simple changes you can easily transform any garden into a relaxing space. Step one is to make sure that you have a quiet corner away from all of the hustle and bustle of everyday life where you can sit and simply enjoy the garden.

Try to avoid having straight paths and walls where possible as these can bring a feeling of regimentation to your space; instead use meandering paths, curved paving and foliage instead of fences which gives a more natural feel.

Make sure you have a variety of fragrant plants. Lavender is ideal as it attracts butterflies and bees – a joy to watch and good for pollinating your garden. Herbs such as mint, rosemary, thyme and sage are also a good choice. Even the smallest of outside spaces – a front garden or balcony – can accommodate a pot of herbs, which always smell strongest at dusk.

Research has shown that brightly coloured flowers are brilliant for lifting the mood so plant some vibrant reds, yellows and oranges as well as cooler whites and blues that are good for relaxation.

Finally, think about a water feature. If the constant trickle of a fountain doesn't work for you then something calmer such as a pond, or small container pond, is a great place to relax and reflect.

While planning your peaceful retreat, don't forget the rest of the garden this month. As the RHS says, January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants. Enjoy the fresh air on dry sunny days and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather.

Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden. Jobs for this month should include:

Cleaning pots and greenhouses ready for spring; dispersing worm casts in lawns; planning your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season; putting out food and water for birds and digging over plots and beds that have not been dug already.

Cosmology corner for January, by Norman Lloyd

ORION (The Hunter), currently visible high in our southern mid-evening skies, is one of the most recognisable of the winter constellations, but just now, it is looking a little different.

The culprit is the distinctly orange star Betelgeuse which marks the constellation's western shoulder.

You may remember from a previous column that Betelgeuse is classed as a red giant star, an enormous stellar behemoth which is 12 times larger than our own Sun. If Betelgeuse were to replace our Sun, it would swallow up not only the four rocky inner planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, but quite likely Jupiter also!

A red giant is a star nearing its end of life and has entered the final stage of stellar evolution. Most of the stars in the Universe are 'main sequence stars' - those which convert hydrogen to helium at their cores by nuclear fusion (our Sun converts four million tons of hydrogen into helium every second!). Over a star's life, the outward pressure of fusion balances the inward pressure of gravity.

When the hydrogen at the core depletes, however, fusion stops, gravity triumphs and the star contracts. Temperature increases with the contraction until it becomes hot enough for a renewed fusion reaction at the core which converts the helium into carbon. Although there is no hydrogen left in the core, the accelerated rise in temperature from the helium fusion is sufficient to cause the shell of hydrogen surrounding the core to start fusion, producing more energy than when it was a main sequence star - and a consequent enormous expansion.

Because of its now larger size, the increased energy production is spread over a much greater area, and the surface of the expanded star is actually cooler giving the appearance of red heat as opposed to white heat. The red giant phase doesn't last too long on an astronomical scale, 'just' a billion years or so (a tenth of our Sun's lifetime). When the remaining hydrogen is all used up, stars the size of our Sun eventually shrink and become white dwarfs before finally fading into black dwarfs.

An exceptionally large star, however, becomes a red supergiant and destroys itself in a huge supernova explosion leaving behind a neutron star; or, for the largest of stars, a black hole. Betelgeuse falls into the red supergiant category and will one day go supernova and for several weeks or months, become visible in daytime and possibly outshine the moon at night.

So, what's different about Betelgeuse right now? Since late October this orange star has become noticeably dimmer. In astronomical terminology the star is 'fainting'.

Betelgeuse is, however, known to be a variable star whose brightness ups and downs have been tracked by both amateur and professional astronomers over many years. But it is dimmer now than at any other time in the past - causing speculation in some quarters that it could be about to pop. Other astronomers are urging caution, saying that it is unlikely to happen in the next 100,000 years - maybe not for another million years. No-one knows the reason for this exceptional fainting but it has been suggested that it could have been caused by some sort of eruption of dust or gas causing changes in its surface brightness.

What will happen when Betelgeuse does eventually explode? Although classed as being 'nearby' in relative terms, it is still some 400 to 600 light years distant from us, so apart from the visual pyrotechnics described above, there will be no other effects to cause concern here on Earth.

Out & About with The GEM

What's on in your area and where?

Marie Lwyd comes to Cowbridge!

AS has become tradition in Cowbridge for over 40 years, on Friday, January 10 a group of locals will welcome in the new year by following the Mari Lwyd from pub to pub starting in the Duke of Wellington at 8:30pm.

This will be an excellent opportunity to join in singing some favourite Welsh folk songs and hymns such as Calon Lan. We will be raising money for Ty Hafan, so please come along and join the festivities.

Yn ôl y traddodiad yn y Bontfaen er dros ddeugain mlynedd, ar ddydd Gwener 10 Ionawr, bydd grŵp o gymdogion lleol yn dilyn y Fari Lwyd o amgylch y tafarnau lleol gan ddechrau yn y Duke of Wellington am 8:30pm.

Bydd hyn yn gyfle gwych i ganu nifer o'n hoff ganeuon Cymreig ac i godi arian dros Tŷ Hafan. Felly dewch yn llu i fwynhau.

Repair Cafe in Llantwit

REPAIR Cafe Wales will be at Bethel Church Hall in Llantwit Major on Saturday, January 11 at 10am to 12pm.

Volunteers will look at your portable household items, to attempt to repair or provide recommendations; refreshments are available while you wait.

Ken Loach film for Dinas Powys

DINAS Powys Community Cinema's 2020 season opens on Saturday, January 11 with the Ken Loach film 'Sorry We Missed You' (15).

Family man Ricky enters the 'gig economy' as a delivery driver in Newcastle, in the hope of buying a house for his wife Abbie and kids Seb and Lisa Jane.

However, pressures mount as Ricky discovers the costs of working without sick pay, holiday, or any sense of stability.

The film season continues with 'Downton Abbey' (PG) on Saturday, February 8.

Doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets on the door, or in advance from the DPVC office at the rear of Murchfield Community Centre (weekday mornings) or online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/murchfieldcommunitycentre.

Bridgend PACTS

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON & MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, January 13 at 6pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD & BRYNHYFRYD PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, January 13 at 6pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, January 13 at 6pm.

REST BAY & NOTTAGE PACT at Nottage Scout Hall, Nottage on Tuesday, January 14 at 6pm.

LITCHARD, PENDRE & COITY PACT at Litchard Mission, Litchard on Thursday, January 16 at 7pm.

PORTHCAWL EAST CENTRAL PACT at Porthcawl Fire Station, Porthcawl on Tuesday, January 21 at 6.30pm.

NEWTON PACT at Newton School Rooms, Newton on Tuesday, January 28 at 6.30pm.

Highlight Park Cuppa

Highlight Park Cuppa on January 13 in Highlight Park Community centre, commencing at 2.30pm.

Care and Repair

IF you are a homeowner or private tenant living in the Vale, perhaps disabled or elderly and needing advice on repairs or home improvements to make life easier at home, Care and Repair Cardiff and Vale can help you adapt and maintain your home; give advice on grants available and also information on reputable companies to use.

Care and Repair will be at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, January 14 from 10am to 12pm. No appointment is needed, just come along. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Home visits can be arranged on 02920 473337.

Legal Advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a free legal advice session at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, January 14 from 10am to 12pm.

If you would like help and advice on making a Will, Power of Attorney or Living Will, come along. No appointment is needed, it is a drop-in. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Llantwit Major library screening

ON January 14 Llantwit Major Library is showing the film 'Judy'.

The film tells the story of legendary performer Judy Garland (Renée Zellweger) who arrives in London in the winter of 1968 to perform a series of sold-out concerts. Tickets from Llantwit Major Library now, £3; please book early. Doors open at 7:15pm, film starts at 7:30pm. Call the library on 01446 792700 to book your place.

Llantwit Parkinson's cafe

LLANTWIT Major Parkinson's drop in cafe meets next on Wednesday, January 15 from 1.30pm - 3.30pm in Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

All are welcome to come along and have a chat and a cuppa. For further information about the Cafe call Martin Simmonds on 01446 796310.

The Vale Association of The National Trust

THE first meeting of 2020 will be held in The Duke of Wellington Hotel, Cowbridge on Wednesday, January 15 at 11am.

The speaker will be historian Dean Powell, his topic 'The Land of Song'. Wales' universal image owes much to the male voice choir tradition.

Dean Powell explains its origins and why Wales should continue to embrace this proud musical tradition. A warm welcome awaits members, visitors and prospective members.

Cowbridge U3A History

THE next Cowbridge U3A History group meeting will be a talk entitled 'From Top to Toe', a fascinating story of fashion, by Rosemary Scadden at 10am on Thursday, January 16 in Cowbridge Town Hall (Lesser Hall).

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Rhoose Community Cinema

AS part of the BFI Musical season , Rhoose Community Cinema are hosting an unlimited tea and cake screening of the motion picture masterpiece Singin' in the Rain (U)

on January 18 at 4pm, Stewart Road Community Hall.

All tickets £7.50. To book online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/rhoose-community-cinema/t-mkxnlj, or call Jo on 07986 907151.

Mahjong in Llantwit

THE Friends of Llantwit Library welcome all to their monthly Mahjong sessions/lessons on the third Tuesday of each month, starting January 21, 7pm to 9pm.

Mahjong, an ancient Chinese game, is an easily learned tabletop game for up to four players. If you enjoy Rummy, you will love playing Mahjong. £2 per session. For more information, call 01446 792700.

Volunteering event in Barry

LOCAL community organisations team up with Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) to recruit volunteers on Thursday, January 23 from 10am to 2pm at Barry Memorial Hall.

More than 50 voluntary organisations will be there. GVS' operational manager, Paul Warren, said: "We want to extend an open invitation to the public to make a difference in the Vale through volunteering. If you have a free hour a week or even one day a month and would like to find out more, come along to our event."

For more information, call 01446 741706 or e-mail enquiries@gvs.wales.

PACT meetings

Llangeinor PACT at Llangeinor Football Club, Llangeinor on Wednesday, February 12 at 7pm.

Come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12pm.

Gibbonsdown PACT at the Residents' Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry on Tuesday, January 21 at 10.30am.

A Deaf PACT meeting on Monday, February 24 between 6pm and 7.30pm at the Emergency Services Centre, Barry Fire Station, Barry.

Bridgend Ramblers

FEELING the mid-winter blues? Need to compensate for overindulgence over the festive season? Fed up with Brexit? Can't stand the idea of a gym workout?

Fear not, help is at hand: why not try an enjoyable, friendly, non-competitive, social walk in the countryside with Bridgend Ramblers?

We've got a programme of varied walks with three each Sunday: nine miles every other Tuesday; five miles every other Wednesday and a gentle three to four mile stroll on alternative Thursdays. Our current programme through to the end of March includes coastal walks in Llantwit Major, Porthcawl and the Gower, countryside walks in the Garw Valley, Brecon Beacons and the Afan Valley and waterfall walks to Melincourt and Ystradfellte.

Plenty of variety to interest anyone wishing to experience the outdoor life and enjoy the many beauties of south Wales. We encourage new walkers to come along for three walks to ensure it's right for them, before asking them to join the Ramblers.

So have a look at our website: www.bridgendramblers.co.uk and see if anything catches your eye. Contact the leader as shown in the programme and just come along and give it a go.

Email details of your events as well as stories, photos, letters and sports reports to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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Family Notices

WENDT
Dennis (Ben)
Peacefully on 26th December at Llandough Hospital, Ben, devoted partner to Helen and much loved dad of Nicola, Julian and Robynne, stepdad to Claire. Cherished pappi and bampy to all his grandchildren. Loving brother to Corinne.
Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Friday, 17th January at 12 noon.
Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support The Palliative Care Team at Llandough Hospital in memory of Ben.
Family request that something yellow or mustard be worn to recognise Ben's Love for Only Fools & Horses

DAVIS
Frederick
6.12.1924 - 22.12.2019
Peacefully at Bella Vista Nursing Home aged 95 years, formerly of Dobbins Road, Barry. Fred was manager of William Hill betting shop, Holton Road until his retirement. Fred was a loving husband, brother, father and grandfather and also a caring friend and neighbour.
Loved and missed by all of his family & friends.
Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. A Service to celebrate Fred's life will be held on Monday, 13th January at St Mary's Church Barry at 11am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 12 noon.
Family flowers only by request. Donations can be made at the service in memory of Fred to Holme Towers.
For all enquiries please telephone 01446 733844.

SHARPE
Loris
Peacefully passed away at Llandough Hospital on Wednesday, 18th of December 2019 surrounded by her family. Loris aged 83 years, beloved wife of the late Peter Sharpe. Mum to her four girls Karen, Kathy, Jane, and Lisa. Mother-in-law to Gethin and Mark. Nan to Rebecca, Grant, Louise, Lucy, Hannah, Jordan-Leigh and Keiron and great nan to Louisha-May, Summer, Liam, Gabriella-Grace, Fred, Molly, Lillie and Ayla.
Loris will be sadly missed by those who loved and knew her. Reunited with Papa Bear.
Sleep well mum.
Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the Funeral Service and Committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium on Wednesday, 15th January 2020 at 1pm.
Flowers welcome, and may be sent to the funeral home.

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Family Notices

CAIN
William

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital on Saturday, 21st December. Beloved husband of Barbara, loving father and step-father and a very much loved bampy.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, 21st January, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

BERKELEY
Colin

21-01-1927 - 19-12-2019

Loving husband of the late Mary, beloved father of Carolyn, adored grandad to Emma, Kyle and Logan, and loved great-grandad to Madison, Sophie and Mason.

Service will be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday,14th January at 11am.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to Dementia UK will be gratefully received.

EGAN
Dorothy May (Dot)

Peacefully passed away on 23rd December, aged 91 and a half. Beloved wife of the late Roy, much loved mother of Stuart and Paul, and loving grandmother to all of her grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Barry, until the service on Thursday, 16th January 2020 at A.G. Adams Service Chapel at 10am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only by request but donations can be made at the service in memory of Dot to Marie Curie.

BROWN
Rosemary

Passed away peacefully on 26th December 2019 at Nazareth House care home, aged 89 years. Funeral service to be held on Wednesday, 15th January at St Cattwg's Church, Llanmaes for 2.30pm, followed thereafter by a committal service at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry for 4pm.

Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers, if so desired, can be given in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 31-33 St Isan Road, Heath, Cardiff . Telephone (029) 2052 4200

HUME
Bernard Joseph

Passed away peacefully at Holme Towers on 25th December 2019 aged 71.

Bernard will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. A service to celebrate his life will be held at All Saints Church on Tuesday, 14th January at 1.45pm followed by cremation at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road Barry.

Family Flowers only by request. Donations in memory of Bernard can be made at the service to Marie Curie. Family have requested that everyone wear something red.

For all enquiries please telephone 01446 733844.

CROYDON
Val

29.9.1930 – 26.12.2019

'A True Barry Island Girl'

We are so sad to announce the passing of Val. Wife of the late Roy. Fantastic mum to Linda, Stephan, Val and mother-in-law to Tony. Adored nan and great-nan to her family far and wide. Special aunty and great friend to many.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Thursday, 16th January at 1pm at A.G. Adams Chapel of Rest, followed by committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 2pm. Dress code optional.

Family flowers only please. Donations gratefully received towards Cancer Research and Dementia UK may be made at the service.

Grateful thanks to College Fields Nursing Home for their kindness to Val over a year.

ROMANS
Mary

Suddenly at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on 28th December aged 69 years.

Mary will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at Robert D Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. A service to celebrate Mary's life will take place on Wednesday, 15th January at 3pm at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Barry.

No Flowers please, donations in memory of Mary can be made at the service to the British Heart Foundation.

For all enquiries please telephone 01446 733844.

MANNING
Joyce Doreen

Peacefully on 10th December, Joy of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of Stephen, loving mother of Lynda, Sue, Carol and Diane, much loved nan and great-nan.

Will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Service will be held on Friday, 10th January 2020 at 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers in memory of Joy, can be made to the RNIB and the Stroke Association, Wales.

BARRETT
Viv

On 24th December at the Manor House, St Hilary, Viv, aged 96 years. Devoted and caring husband of the late Marlene, father of Steve, a grandfather and great-grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon until the Funeral on Wednesday, 29th January 2020, service and cremation 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only.

Sincere thanks to all the Staff at the Manor House, St Hilary.

FULGONI
Rosa

Sadly passed away on Friday, 20th December 2019, at Llandough Hospital.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Reception into St Helen's RC Church, Barry, Thursday, 9th January, at 4pm. Requiem Mass to be held Friday,10th January, at 12.15pm.

No flowers. Donations, if desired, to Latch, Welsh Children's Cancer Charity, c/o Lyndsay Ellis, The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry.

LEES
Patricia
(of Sully)

Passed away peacefully at home after a short illness on 20th December 2019, aged 90 years. Beloved wife, mum, grannie and great-grandmother.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

A funeral service will be held in the Briwnant Chapel at Thornhill Crematorium on Tuesday, 14th January 2020 at 12 noon.

Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers for Marie Curie may be left at the crematorium or forwarded to Green Willow Funerals Ltd, 33 St Isan Road, Cardiff. Telephone 02920 514627.

LEWIS
William Albert Robert (Bill)

The family wish to announce the sad passing of William, aged 84 years on Wednesday, 18th December 2019. Cherished and adored husband to Joy. Loving dad to Glyn and daughter-in-law Deborah. Proud grandfather to Sarah, Helen and Rebecca and great-grandfather to Freddie, Joseff and Rhys.

William was committed to supporting Joy and will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

He will live on forever in our hearts.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, 14th January, service 11am at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry, followed by interment in Porthkerry Cemetery.

Family Flowers only please. Donations, if desired, in memory of William may be made at the service in support of 'Action Pulmonary Fibrosis'.

TRUDGIAN
Jeremy Ashley

The family are sad to announce the death of Jeremy, eldest son of John and the late Patricia. Husband of Denise and loving dad and grandad, big brother of Jonathan and Jenny.

Funeral service to be held in Maltby, South Yorkshire, his adopted home.

HUGHES
Margaret (Eldridge née Elkins)

Peacefully on 5th December 2019 at Llandough Hospital.

Loved and missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service Tuesday, 14th of January 2020 at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 11am. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Support.

ROWLANDS
Victor

Peacefully passed away at home on 23rd December 2019. Loving husband of Susan (Ducks), father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Service and cremation to be held on Friday, 17th January 2020 at 2pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, following at Jenner Suite (Barry Town United Football Club) for a celebration of Vic's life. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Hospice.

The family request that gentleman wear white socks, ladies optional.

PINCH
Patricia

Passed away peacefully on 31st December at Llandough Hospital. Loving mother to Micheal and Vicky and loving mother-in-law. Adored grandmother and great-grandmother.

Will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors until the service on Monday, 20th January at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 4pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if desired, can be made at the service to Marie Curie Holme Tower in memory of Patricia.

BARRETT
Olive May

Peacefully passed away on Tuesday, 31st December after a long fight with Alzheimers. Darling wife of George, amazing mother of Paul, Mark, Jackie and Michael, mother-in-law to Jane, Billy and Karyn, loving grandmother and great-grandmother.

Olive will be greatly missed.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, 24th January, service and cremation 1pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Alzheimers Society.

Please wear colourful clothes.

NORMAN
Robert D. (Bob)

Suddenly on 24th December at The University Hospital of Wales. Bob well known for his time at Cardiff Bus and lifelong member of Market Street Club, Barry. Devoted husband of Angel'a', loving dad of Mark, Bobby, Steven, James and Lisa. Cherished bampy to all his grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Bob will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry on Friday, 24th January at 10:45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Dr Barnados in memory of Bob.

Family request that a hint of blue be worn to honour Bob's love of Leicester City Football Club.

Further enquiries please telephone 01446 407962.

KIRKHAM
Wayne
(also known as Owen Jenkins Roberts)

Sadly passed away on 3rd January at his home in Llantwit Major. Proud father to Gareth, Sian, Mark and Christopher. Loving grandfather to Ethan and Maggie. Will be missed by us all.

Funeral arrangements to be confirmed and announced.

ROSS
Margaret McCormick

Peacefully at home on 2nd January 2020, loving wife of Jim, much loved mother and granny.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, 22nd January, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Marie Curie c/o the funeral director.

WILLIAMS
Elaine (née George)

On 4th January 2020, Elaine, aged 80 years, formerly of Llantwit Major sadly passed away following many years of illness. Loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt.

Resting at Coles Funeral Directors until the thanksgiving service for her life to be held on Thursday, 23rd January at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 12pm, followed by interment at The Natural Burial Ground at 1.30pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of floral tributes, if desired, may be sent to Ty Hafan, Hayes Road, Sully, CF64 5XX in memory of Elaine.

A donation collection will be provided at the Service. Donations/tributes can also be made via www.colesfuneraldirectors.co.uk/funeral-notices.

All enquiries to Coles Funeral Directors, 2-4 Heathwood Road, Birchgrove, Cardiff, CF14 4XE, Tel: 02922 093388.

Acknowledgements

CLARK
Tammy

Derek and family of the late Tammy who passed away on 18th November wish to thank all family friends, colleagues and neighbours for attending her funeral. Thanks for their support and condolences during the family's sad loss.

Also thank you to doctors and staff at the University Hospital of Wales for the care shown to Tammy and her family. All staff at Dan-y-Bryn Care Home for their care and compassion.

Thanks to Julia Page for the heartfelt and personal service she conducted at A.G. Adams and the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

In Memory

LIGGINS
Joshua

June 2000 to December 2019

Our wonderful and loving Grandson, gone to meet God.
We will always love you.
You were more like a son, so loving and so caring.
Until we meet again Joshua.
Love, Nan & Grandad Reid

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Anniversary

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Thank you Muriel for your love and our family.
Your loving husband Graham
xxx

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Athletic Generals come out on top against Pyle

PYLE Seconds hosted Bridgend Athletic Generals in a friendly, with the home side keen to avenge their defeat at Newbridge Fields last season.

However, the Athletic again prevailed with a 31-17 victory.

As the first game after the Christmas break, it was evident the festive period had sapped the fluidity of the Athletic game. Both teams worked through phase play and the game was unfolding to be a close encounter.

Athletic were the first to regroup and managed to score with a well-worked try scored by Javan Bell, who raced 35 metres, by-passing several defenders to score the opener.

The scrum allowed Pyle to work some set piece moves and with a quick pass to the Pyle running centre, they were over for their first score under the posts which was duly converted by their prop.

A frustrated Athletic side did not want to go into the half time break behind on the score board. Some neat passing saw the Athletic gain 50 metres and eventually score through a Harry Harries try just before the half time whistle. Scott Jones converted.

The Generals started the second half with a very strong back to basics principle, running through the phases which opened up some space for Hywel Cosby to score in the corner within a minute of the restart, Scott Jones converted with a cracker of a kick from the touch line.

By this point the Generals were dominating possession and frustrating Pyle, but their defence was resilient. The Generals kept playing to their strengths and the patience was rewarded by another great phase of 'heads up' rugby which saw the ball passed through more than a dozen hands, with Harry Harries eventually crossing the Pyle try line.

Uncharacteristically, the Generals ill-discipline started to creep into the game, which allowed Pyle to capitalise and gain some much-needed territory. They kept the ball tight within the pack and were eventually rewarded with their second try of the game.

The Pyle try was a wake-up call for the Generals and they soon started working through the phases again!

Some consistent pressure on the Pyle line, looked surely to be rewarded with another Generals try, but some basic handling errors saw that opportunity lost and cleared by Pyle.

Within minutes, the Athletic were back in possession and attacking the Pyle 22. Moments later Javan Bell was in possession and crossed for his second of the day on the 78-minute mark

At this point the game was all but won by the Athletic Generals, but Pyle were not ready to throw in the towel and continued to pressurise the Athletic side and eventually scored a try before the final whistle.

The General's man of the match award went to Javan Bell for his outstanding attacking and defensive display, with recognition going to Josh Seldon and Ellis James for their tireless defensive efforts.

The Generals would also like to thank youth players Jack Obbard and George Tellem for joining the squad at the last moment and for their excellent displays on the field.

Bobbett is a cut above as Barry Vets run riot

IN their first match of 2020, Barry Vets over-55s were just too good for a sprightly Merthyr Tydfil and they secured an impressive 9–1 victory, including a fabulous foursome for evergreen Mike Bobbett.

The defence of their over-55s League crown is now very much back in their own hands.

Although missing a number of key players, Barry were still able to field a strong squad at Abercynon, so much so that they dominated the match, pretty much, from start to finish and in fact the scoreline could have been even more emphatic!

Merthyr are always a tough nut to crack but with Barry in this form, Merthyr's weaknesses were immediately exploited by the midfield of Huish, Price, Marshall and Dupuy, and full backs Staddon and Gibbins, whilst strikers Welsh and Bobbett terrorised their opponents. 'Jonah' Jones continued with his impressive scoring run, slotting home Dupuy's corner with aplomb.

Price scored shortly afterwards when he slammed home from close range after his header was parried. The visitors went three up when Bobbett took advantage of a defensive lapse to finish from a tight angle.

Barry stopper John Jones was a mere spectator, and apart from one defensive mix-up which allowed the home striker to score cheaply, this was a consummate back four performance from Gibbins, Jones, Averies and Staddon.

Merthyr's momentary chink of hope was crushed however, when Bobbett scored his second and then completed his hat-trick with an audacious lob, proving that when he's in this kind of mood he is almost unplayable.

Into the second half and Dupuy took centre stage, first supplying a superb cross, which was powerfully headed home by Welsh and then getting on the scoresheet himself with a delightful chip over the stranded keeper.

The pack was shuffled with Brown and Taylor entering the fray, but man-of-the-match Bobbett was relentless, scoring his fourth after robbing the opposition number 5.

But the best was still to come as Huish screamed a shot into the top corner from 25 yards to complete the rout and send out a clear warning to the other teams in the league.

Next week the over 50s travel to Cwmbran for a cup match against last years beaten finalists.

AH

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Ysgol Gwaun y Nant pupils spread seasonal cheer

OVER the festive period, pupils from Ysgol Gwaun y Nant have been bringing seasonal joy to the community by entertaining crowds with traditional carols.

The school choir took a break from lessons to visit Cardiff Airport, Tesco in Barry, as well as the Stroke Ward at Llandough Hospital.

Rhydian Lloyd, the headteacher, said: "We have been singing carols in the community for quite a few years. Pupils have always enjoyed the experience and people are always very appreciative.

"It was especially rewarding to be able to go to Llandough Hospital this year. I'm sure that the children brightened the day of many patients.

"In addition to this pupils decided to invite parents to school for an afternoon of carols and mince pies! The afternoon was organised by pupils - from writing the invites, preparing the programme and tickets, sourcing refreshments (which were kindly donated by Tesco) and serving tea and coffee.

"The pupils also decided that all proceeds should go to charity. It was a pleasure to be able to present cheques of £135 each to the RNLI, Llamau and Ty Dyfan."

Brynhill Ladies tried their hands at festive wreaths before Christmas

JO Kirkpatrick, the Ladies' Captain of Brynhill Golf Club welcomed Hilary West, of Hilary West Florists, Colcot Road, Barry and said that Brynhill was honoured to have Hilary at the club to demonstrate how to make a Christmas door swag.

All 25 ladies attending the evening made an excellent attempt at duplicating what Hilary had shown them. All very individual. Hilary was delighted with the efforts made by all the ladies.

The December 3 winter competition winner was Lynda Lloyd with 16 points.

JMK

After a diet of television Darts over Christmas, it's back to reality in the Cowbridge Darts League

DARTS in the Vale with the Cowbridge League has resumed after the Christmas and New Year break, and on January 7 the Farmers Arms hosted the final of the Great Western Cup between the Red Lion Inn and the Edmondes B; the results will be given in next week's report.

Present league standings after eight weeks are: Edmondes B (103 points), Highwayman Inn (93), Victoria Inn (88), Farmers Arms (73), Hairy Farmers (69), Edmondes C (64), Edmondes A (60), Town Hall Criers (57) and Red Lion Inn (46).

This coming Tuesday, January 14 The Highwayman Inn hosts the Town Hall Criers, the Edmondes B hosts the Victoria Inn, the Hairy Farmers hosts the Farmers Arms and the Red Lion Inn hosts the Edmondes A. The Edmondes C have a bye.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com*, up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*.

Please note: the league is very keen to grow and have more teams next season, so anyone looking at putting a team together or landlords keen to host a darts team – please get in touch!

PJT

Sully Over-60s take Welsh title

ABOVE:
The Sully Over-60s rink, Welsh contenders at the 2020 UK Finals in March are (from left): Rod Hudson, Gerry White, Mike Doody (president) Ken McLeod and Andrew Harvey.

Email your sports reports and photographs to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Barry Chess Club at the New Year Chess Congress

THE start of every new year is marked on the first weekend by the New Year Chess Congress that has been held for many years in Bridgend.

There are as usual three sections to this tournament, and on this occasion the Barry Chess Club had a representative in each section. In the Open Section Dave Turner was our entrant.

Dave was ranked 16th out of the 32 entrants. After a tough match in round one when he lost to second seed Grzegorz Toczek things improved. With three wins from his remaining four games he finished in equal eighth place, only a point behind the eventual winner.

In the Major Section Ian Abraham was ranked 19th out of 28 players. Ian picked up a win, a draw and a half point bye to finish on two points from his five rounds of play. He finished in equal 19th place which is exactly where he should have been.

In the Minor Section Stephen Maguire was the Barry representative. There were only eight players in this section and Stephen was ranked eighth. He also finished with two points with two wins and three losses. Included among his wins was a victory against second seed Craig Thomas.

Stephen finished in equal fifth place, so it was a good competition for Stephen and some valuable ratings points will have been earned.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm most Mondays (excluding Bank Holidays) at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but it is better to contact one of the club members through the website first, so that we can arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details visit our website at *barrychessclub.yolasite.com.*

PJ

Bridgend Athletic RFC Mini and Junior games roundup

FIVE BARFC M&J teams were in action on the first Sunday in 2020.

Under-8: Bridgend Athletic under-8s took a squad of 19 players to Glynneath for their first game after the Christmas break.

The Ath were in fine form, running in tries for fun and completing numerous six tag turnovers. Great team effort by all the following players: Zavier Gardener, Riley Thomas, Charlie Tune, Osian Phillips, Callum Brown, Matthew Hallez, Sam Francis, Benjamin Westlake, Matthew Willcox, Isaac Rees, Joshua Owen, Jesse Sargent, Harry Tomkins, Evan Lewis, Harrison O'Brien, Ollie Davies, George Cowan, Tyler Pascoe and Ollie Dowson.

Next up for the under-8s is a trip to Pontrhydyfen.

Under-9: On January 5, the Ath under-9s travelled to Glynneath for their first fixture of 2020.

Having had a three-week break the Ath looked a little rusty; they quickly blew away the cobwebs however, and got back into their rhythm.

The home side proved stiff opposition and the under-9s had to put in a strong performance, particularly in defence. Three matches were played with the results displaying the even nature of the contest:

Match 1: Draw 2-2, Match 2: Loss 0-1, Match 3: Win 3-2

Under-11: The first game of 2020 saw the under-11s travel to Aberavon Green Stars.

The Ath started brilliantly with a quick try from the first kick-off for Charlie Richards. The first half saw another three tries from the Ath, with a powerful run from Oliver Williams, Charlie going over for his brace and Jackson with a solo run to go over for his first try of the day.

In the second half, Aberavon had a little success but the Ath were too strong in the forwards, and a little too cute for the opposition in the backs with some well-worked moves.

A great start to 2020. Try scorers Oliver Williams (3), Jackson Mutlow (3), Charlie Richards (2) and a well-deserved try towards the end for Rhys Punter. Final score: Aberavon 15 - 45 Ath.

Under-14: For the first game after Christmas the under-14s entertained Bryncoch for the first time on Newbridge fields. With the going heavy underfoot it was the Ath who started the game the better, winning turnover ball and putting Bryncoch under pressure. Off one of these pressure plays by Dan Honeyfield the ball was picked up by Matthew Davidson.

Matthew stepped inside a couple of players and drove over the line, under the posts. It wasn't long before the Ath scored their second try, with good interplay between Iolo John, Rhys Hockings and Sam Breeze, with Rhys giving the final pass for Sam to beat the final defender and run in unopposed, taking the half time score to 10–0 to the Ath.

Bryncoch started the second half on top, with their forwards making good inroads into the Ath defence. It wasn't long before their pressure turned into points with a couple of tries under the posts with one converted.

With the game in the balance and with both the Ath first choice centres off the pitch with injury, it was good Ath defence that kept Bryncoch out for the remainder of the game. Rhys Hockings still had to beat three defenders to run in the winning try and score under the posts, kicking the final conversion. The Ath won the game with a final score of 17–12.

Under-16: It was Nantyfyllon away for the under-16s and first game for over a month, so always going to be rusty. Surprisingly with terrible pitch conditions the overindulgence didn't turn out too badly. The Ath in fact probably tried to play to much open rugby with the conditions having the upper hand and uncharacteristic errors being made.

However, the Ath did get the first try with strong running from Jacob Perkins charging up the middle releasing the backs for Gus Patterson to go over and Evan Beach converting. Half time score 3-7.

In the second half the Ath won the kicking battle with Evan Beach keeping Nanty pinned in their own half. Unfortunately for the Ath, our line out wasn't operating as usual and failed to capitalise on chances. However, some quick thinking between Luke Griffiths and Jacob Perkins with a short throw in the lineout saw Perkins accelerate up the touchline to smash through the Nantyfyllon fullback. Final score 3–12.

Go dry this month to help your eyes

NOW the party season is over, it's time to put the brakes on the bingeing to make sure we look after our health.

With many people using the New Year as an opportunity to detox and go 'dry', Specsavers in Cowbridge explains why this is great news for our eyes and ears. We all know that alcohol can play havoc with our bodies and it's not just the hangovers we have to show for it, as dehydration can also cause symptoms of 'dry eye'.

Andrew Moss, store director, says: "When you lose more fluid than you take in, your body becomes dehydrated. Our eyes can become dry and irritated and we can even start to get slightly blurred vision because there are not enough tears to lubricate the eye.

"Tears are so important as they can wash away foreign matter that might come into contact with your eye, and they also help reduce the risk of eye infections. The best way to try and combat dry eyes is by rehydrating, by drinking plenty of water. Your optician can also recommend eye drops that can help."

Our eyes aren't the only sense that suffers, as audiology director Kevin Thomas explains: "High alcohol consumption over a long period of time, much like the festive season, can result in damage to the central auditory cortex of the brain which can then lead to brain shrinkage. The damage to the auditory nerve then adds up, meaning even moderate drinkers are at risk.

"Research has shown that heavy and even social drinking can damage the part of the brain that enables you to hear. So, while our actual ears may be functioning properly after consuming alcohol, the reaction on our brain can cause hearing loss."

That is why going dry is not only great news for our livers but other parts of our body will benefit too.

Chief Medical Officer wishes everyone a healthier New Year

MANY of us take the opportunity of the New Year to think about how we want to improve our health and well-being in the year ahead.

The Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Frank Atherton, says the key to lasting change is to get support, whether from friends and family or from the many programmes designed to help.

"One of the top new year's resolutions is to quit smoking, which we know is a really difficult habit to break; but it is one of the best things you'll ever do for your health.

"We know that you're up to four times more likely to succeed in your efforts to give up smoking with free NHS support than you are by going it alone, so take your first step towards a healthier 2020 by contacting Help me Quit, the free NHS Wales service.

Call 0800 085 2219, Text HMQ to 80818 or visit helpmequit.wales for free, effective and tailored help and support.

"We know that physical activity is hugely beneficial to our health, both in terms of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight and contributing to our happiness and wellbeing.

"Even relatively small increases in physical activity can improve our health and quality of life, and it doesn't have to be working out at the gym or running marathons, unless that's enjoyable and achievable for individuals.

"Gardening, walking, and carrying shopping all count, so try to incorporate more activity into everyday life wherever possible and you'll feel the benefit."

He added: "The start of a new year is often a time when we think about our weight, and it's a fact that achieving a healthy weight is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of long term health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and cancers. "Changing daily lifestyle habits can be challenging, but it can be done, and our new plan to tackle obesity sets out the ways in which we will help people to break old habits and create healthy new ones.

"Embedding healthy behaviours from a young age is key, so if one of your resolutions is to help your children live a healthy life, Every Child Wales provides lots of ideas to get you on the right track.

"The new year is also a good time to think about how we can reduce our alcohol intake in order to reduce the risks to our health. With January just around the corner, giving up alcohol for just one month can have some amazing health benefits including better sleep, more money in your pocket, healthier insides, more energy, brighter skin and much more."

Garden scheme raises £35,000

THE National Garden Scheme (NGS) in Glamorgan is thanking garden enthusiasts who helped raise just under £35,000 during 2019.

Under the scheme, private gardens are opened for a day, with the proceeds from entry fees and refreshment sales going to charities chosen by the NGS.

Spokeswoman Rhian James said: "This year, open gardens have helped to support nursing and health charities including Macmillan, Marie Curie and Horatio's Garden.

"Some of the funds have gone to wonderful new facilities and this year we welcomed the opening of The Y Bwthyn NGS Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Unit at The Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant.

"We also look forward to Cardiff's very own Horatio's Garden at the University Hospital Llandough, with work now started to create a garden at the Spinal and Neurological Centre for patients, their families and staff."

She continued: "This year there have been some wonderful highlights to share. This was the first year opening with the National Garden Scheme for a number of gardens. At 164, Redlands Road, Penarth, a large urban garden, there was a feast for the eyes and an explosion of colour, opening at the height of the summer.

"We had some fantastic group gardens opening in 2019 exemplifying how a group of gardens within a village or small town can make for a memorable day out. Llanmaes Gardens proved to be a great inspiration for our volunteer photographers, who captured some beautiful images for us to share with you on the NGS website.

"Dinas Powys is another great example of a group of gardens opening under one entry fee, offering a variety of garden styles to see in one day.

"If you love to be inspired by gardens and want to visit in 2020, a great place to plan your visit is via our website. In 2020 over 30 gardens will open in Glamorgan, with eight new gardens and 10 opening 'By Arrangement'.

"If you are unable to make it to the general openings, the 'By Arrangement' gardens are happy to welcome you at a more suitable time by arrangement with the garden owner. Please feel free to get in contact with us to find out more or connect with us on social media at www.ngs.org.uk"

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St Athan rain defeats the Glamorgan farmers!

Winning golfers Brian Jones, sponsor Martyn David with Father Christmas (alias Andrew Thomas), Robbie Llewelyn and Tim Jarvis.

FOR only the second time in 35 years of playing monthly golf, the Christmas meeting arranged for members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Society was reduced to nine holes due to adverse weather at St Athan Golf Club.

With playing conditions deteriorating shortly after the first group had completed nine holes, the society captain Clive Thomas sensibly called a halt to proceedings, much to the satisfaction of all 29 competitors.

Luckily for Andrew Thomas who, unfortunately, was unable to attend the evening presentation ceremony, a front nine score of 16 Stableford points was just enough to return home with a voucher for a goose, courtesy of the day's generous sponsor Mr Martyn David of Picketston Poultry Ltd.

The runner-up with 15 points was local farmer Brian Jones, followed by Robbie Llewellyn, Tim Jarvis and Neil McLean who all scored 14. John Davies, with 13 points, won the over-80s competition, just seeing off the challenge of Glyn Watts-Jones who finished with 12.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan (Cowbridge) sponsored par-3 holes were society president Geraint Davies and Hugh Williams, now playing off his reduced handicap of just four.

Clive Edwards featured in the prize giving when returning home with the Llanerch Vineyard & Restaurant sponsored longest drive prize and jet-setting retired farmer David Williams from Llancadle returned home with half a dozen eggs when correctly guessing just 18 balls would make it back to the clubhouse, which raised £60 for the Injured Jockeys Charity.

The next meeting of the society will be on Thursday, January 30, at Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, kindly sponsored by Mr Gino Cocco of Llanharan Concrete Co Ltd.

Finally captain Clive Thomas and members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society wish golfers throughout the Vale a very Happy and Blessed New Year.

TMcC

Porthcawl complete a season's double over Ystradgynlais

FOLLOWING the previous week's victory at Pyle, Porthcawl went on the road to record a comfortable double in the Swansea Valley at Ystradgynlais, winning by 30–5.

The village hosts, always a side to be reckoned with due to their strong pack, showed great control to thwart early Porthcawl efforts to use a plentiful supply of ball and it was fully half an hour before flanker Louis Protheroe, grandson of former Bridgend and Aberavon stalwart Paul Stenner, broke through the home defence to set up the ruck and earn an easy penalty, which fly-half Josh White put over to open the scoring at nil-3.

Led well by skipper Leon McNally, Porthcawl also had some great driving play from props Harry Olding and perpetual workhorse Jamie Uren, which paved the way in wearing down the home defence.

A superb rip of possession by hooker Will Lampard led to a second penalty chance for White from 30 metres and nil-6 although this was scant reward for the amount of possession the Seaweeds had enjoyed to that point.

A chance for the first try of the match was squandered, however as Porthcawl's four on two overlap resulted in a dropped pass, the chance now gone, going into the break at just nil-6.

The start of the second half was to see a better level of execution by Porthcawl and when after 50 minutes, opportunity came, they didn't disappoint.

Superb hands by lock Kyle Galtry made the opening, the ball recycled by McNally and the result a superb try for flanker Ben Asprea, goaled by White and nil-13.

White then added another penalty as Protheroe's industry at the breakdown won the chance, before a super drive into defence from a lineout saw the ball released and the skipper McNally, showing deft footballing skills, kicked through the flat defence and won the race to touch down for a marvellous individual score at the posts, with White's conversion bringing it to 23 without reply.

While the scoreline didn't flatter the Seaweeds at all, neither did it reflect the industry of the home side for whom captain Ethan Nicholls was a smart operator who kept his side on the go from scrum-half.

Indeed, it was Nicholls who set up the position from which left wing Emyr Addey scooted over for a deserved unconverted try to get Ystrad on the board.

This score seemed to spur the hosts into throwing the ball around more readily, however that can sometimes be counter-productive and this proved so as Porthcawl sub Thomas Wilson intercepted near halfway and fairly galloped away down the left touchline to cross at the corner for a great try, bettered only by White's outstanding conversion to round off the scoring for Porthcawl and another victory which keeps them in third spot and in promotion contention.

Full-back Tom Davies was faultless throughout for the Seaweeds and deserves a mention, as does scrum-half Jak Robbins, who kept the possession flowing and was a terrier around the fringes; and coach Rhys James will be pleased to get a win on the board before Saturday's visit to Seven Sisters.

Paul Fielding

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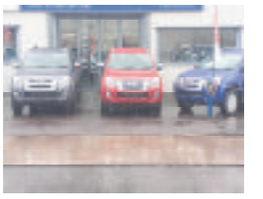

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13 13 AUDI A1 1.6 TDI Sport 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, air-con, alloys, white **£7495**

16 16 AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDI S-Line Estate, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, 33k, grey **£14995**

15 65 AUDI A6 2.0 TDI Ultra Black Edition 4dr S Tronic, 20"alloys, bose, sat nav, grey, full leather **£16495**

15 65 BMW M135 3.0 I Sport 5dr, xenons, dab, Bluetooth, 28k, black, full leather **£15995**

16 66 BMW 116 D EfficientDynamics Plus 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, 18k, blue **£11495**

13 13 BMW 118 D SE 2dr Convertible, Bluetooth, white, full leather **£6495**

15 65 BMW 118 D Sport 5dr (150bhp), sat nav, driver comfort pack, pdc, 44k, silver, full redleather **£10495**

16 66 BMW 330e M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, sat nav, cruise, 35k, estoril blue, full leather **£17995**

14 14 BMW 320 D EfficientDynamics Business 4dr, sat nav, 18"alloys, privacy glass, white, full leather **£9495**

17 67 BMW 320 D M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather **£16295**

16 16 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, 30k, met grey, full leather **£18495**

15 15 BMW 420 D SE 190 2dr Coupe Automatic, sat nav, 18"m sport alloys, black, full leather **£12995**

17 67 BMW 420 D [190] M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, 19"alloys, pro media, m sport + pack, Harman kardon, choice, full leather **£18995**

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£14995**

15 15 BMW M5 4.4 4dr DCT automatic (559bhp), elec glass sunroof, sat nav, reverse camera, 26k, white, full leather **£26995**

16 66 BMW X1 2.0 SDrive D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather **£13995**

15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon black, full leather **£26495**

16 16 DS DS3 1.2 Puretech Elegance 3dr, cruise, dab, 17"black alloys, 17k, yellow **£6995**

17 66 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Titanium S 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, 21k, yellow, half-leather **£9495**

16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line Navigation 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, dab, 7k, black **£10495**

15 64 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Style 5dr, air-con, Bluetooth, dab, 42k, blue **£6995**

17 67 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI 180 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 20k, silver **£17495**

12 12 FORD MONDEO 1.6 EcoBoost Titanium Estate (160bhp), Bluetooth, cruise, grey **£5495**

17 66 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr (7-Seater), Ford warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, cruise,34k, met red **£14995**

19 19 HYUNDAI i30 2.0 T GDI N Performance 5dr (271bhp), Hyundai warranty April 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 3k, black, half-leather **£21995**

16 66 HYUNDAI i40 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 4dr, Hyundai warranty Nov 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 30k, silver, full leather **£11795**

19 69 HYUNDAI KONA 1.6 150kw GDI Hybrid Premium SE 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 464 miles in orange **£22995**

18 68 JAGUAR F-PACE 2.0 D R-Sport 5dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 7k, black, full leather **£29995**

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 13k, grey, full leather **£16495**

17 17 JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 MultiJet Longitude 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, 18k, black **£8995**

13 13 KIA CEED 1.6 CRDi 2 EcoDynamics 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 39k, silver **£5995**

16 66 KIA NIRO 1.6 GDI Hybrid 2 5dr DCT Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 28k, choice **£15995**

17 17 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDI KX-2 5dr (7-Seater), Kia warranty June 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 25k, silver, full leather **£18995**

6 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Nov 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, choice, full leather **£14495**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 ED4 SE 5dr, heated seats, 18"alloys, 37k, blue, full leather **£17995**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 HSE DYNAMIC 5 DR Auto, sat nav, 24K, met grey, full leather **£24995**

14 64 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography 5dr Automatic, pan roof, TV, sat nav, electric side steps, reverse camera, white, full leather **£34995**

17 67 LEXUS IS300h Advance 4dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 17"alloys, cruise, grey, full leather **£17495**

18 68 MAZDA 3 2.2 D SPORT Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, headup display, reverse camera, black, full leather **£14995**

18 18 MAZDA 6 2.0 Sport Nav 4dr, MAZDA Warranty until 2021, sat nav, bose, 19"alloys, 14k, white, full leather **£15495**

16 66 MAZDA CX-3 2.0 SE Nav 5dr, Bluetooth, USB, 16k, black **£11495**

13 62 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, grey, full leather **£8995**

16 66 MAZDA MX-5 1.5 SE 2dr Convertible, alloys, usb, aux, met red **£9995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 5dr, cruise, 17"black alloys, privacy glass, 36k, white silver, half-leather **£9995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 2.0 S D 3dr Automatic, media pack xl – sat nav, cruise, privacy glass, 34k, grey **£12995**

17 67 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 S 5dr (189bhp), Mini warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 18"alloys, 11k, white, half-leather **£17995**

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 dCi N-Connecta 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, choice **£8995**

18 68 NISSAN NAVARA Double Cab Pick Up Tekna 2.3dCi 190 4WD Automatic, Nissan warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, black, full leather ..... **£17995+VAT**

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr, cruise, aux, usb, 17"alloys, blue **£7495**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Connecta 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, choice **£10495**

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr, cruise, aux, usb, 17"alloys, blue **£7495**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Connecta 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, choice **£10495**

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr 4wd (7-Seater), pan roof, 26k, grey **£12995**

15 65 PEUGEOT 108 1.2 Puretech Allure 5dr, reverse camera, dab, Bluetooth, red **£4995**

18 18 PEUGEOT 2008 1.2 PureTech 110 GT Line 5dr EAT6, Peugeot warranty April 2021, apple car play, sat nav, pan roof, 8k, grey **£13995**

18 68 PORSCHE MACAN 2.0 T 4WD 5dr PDK, pan roof, 21"turbo alloys, BOSE, comfort memory pack, heated seats, LED lights, huge spec, in black with full leather **£47995**

18 18 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE 90 Urban Nav 5dr, Renault warranty March 2022, sat nav, Bluetooth, pdc, 3k, blue **£9495**

17 67 SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE Dynamic Technology 5dr DSG Automatic, Seat warranty until December 2020, sat nav, cruise, 8k, grey **£11495**

15 65 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX SE 5dr, heated seats, privacy glass, 33k, blue, full leather **£8495**

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GTD 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, heated seats, 27k, grey, full leather **£16995**

17 67 VW PASSAT 1.4 TSI GTE Estate DSG Automatic (215bhp), sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, black, half-leather **£18495**

19 19 VOLVO V40 1.5 T3 R-Design Edition 5dr Automatic (152bhp), Volvo warranty April 2022, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, only 730 miles in black, full leather **£18995**

18 68 VOLVO V60 2.0 D4 (190) Momentum Estate Automatic, Volvo warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, heated seats, 10k, black **£21495**

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16 66 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr, xenons, cruise, 18"alloys, grey **£12995**

18 18 MERCEDES A180 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, cruise, dab, 9k, choice **£18495**

18 18 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line Premium 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 6k, silver, half-leather **£20995**

18 68 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, 15k, choice, half-leather **£19795**

18 18 MERCEDES A200 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty March 2021, sat nav, usb, reverse camera, 16k, silver **£15995**

18 18 MERCEDES A200 D Sport Edition Plus 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty July 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 6k, black **£17995**

18 68 MERCEDES A200 1.3 Sport 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sep 2021, sat nav, rev cam, 5k, met grey, half leather **£19495**

18 68 MERCEDES A200d AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr Automatic, Mercedes Warranty until November 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 3k, black, half leather **£21795**

15 15 MERCEDES A220 CDI AMG Sport 5dr Automatic, night pack, pan roof, sat nav, silver, full leather **£13495**

16 66 MERCEDES C43 4Matic Premium 2dr Coupe Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 22k, white, half-leather **£29995**

16 65 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line 2dr Coupe Automatic, heated seats, 26k, black, full leather **£19995**

18 18 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty May 2021, pan roof, sat nav, heated seats, 15k, choice, full leather **£19495**

18 67 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line 2dr Convertible Auto, Mercedes warranty March 2021, 19"alloys, sat nav, 9k, silver, full leather **£22995**

18 68 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium Plus 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, silver, full leather **£23795**

18 68 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty until Oct 2021, widescreen nav, rev cam, 9k, grey, half leather **£25995**

18 68 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line Premium 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, usb, 8k, choice, half-leather **£23495**

14 64 MERCEDES C220 D BlueTEC AMG Line Premium Plus 4dr Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, 21k, silver, full leather **£17995**

17 17 MERCEDES C220d AMG Line 2dr Convertible Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 5k, grey **£20995**

18 68 MERCEDES C220 D Sport 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, silver, full leather **£19995**

17 67 MERCEDES C250d AMG Line 2dr Convertible Automatic, sat nav, rev camera, 17k, blue, full leather **£21495**

18 18 MERCEDES C250 D AMG Line Premium Plus 2dr Coupe Automatic, Mercedes warranty July 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, grey **£24995**

16 66 MERCEDES C300 AMG Line 2dr Convertible Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 18"alloys, 27k, blue, full leather **£21495**

18 68 MERCEDES C300 AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 7k, choice, half-leather **£27995**

19 19 MERCEDES C300 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, only 1307 miles in blue with half-leather **£28995**

15 65 MERCEDES C350e Sport Premium Plus 4dr Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 41k, silver, full leather **£17995**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA180 Sport 4dr, cruise, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 15k, silver **£16795**

18 68 MERCEDES CLA180 AMG Line Edition 4dr, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 6k, black, half-leather **£20495**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 D Sport 4dr, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 28k, red **£15995**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 D AMG Line 4dr Coupe, cruise, Bluetooth, 19k, white **£18495**

17 67 MERCEDES CLA220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate Tip Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, cruise, red, half-leather **£17495**

17 67 MERCEDES E200 D SE 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 17k, black, full leather **£19995**

16 16 MERCEDES E220 BlueTEC SE 4dr 7G-Tronic Automatic, sat nav, 20k, sailver, full leather **£15495**

16 16 MERCEDES E220d AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, 31k, grey, half leather **£18495**

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, white, half-leather **£21995**

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, sat nav, xenons, 20k, choice **£19995**

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 13k, choice, half-leather **£20495**

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes Warranty September 2020, sat nav, rev camera, 26k, grey, half leather **£21495**

18 18 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty July 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 20"alloys, 10k, grey, half-leather **£28995**

18 18 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 2dr Convertible Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 9k, black **£26995**

18 68 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 4k, white **£28995**

18 68 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 7k, choice, half-leather **£29995**

14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 4dr 7G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, white **£14995**

18 18 MERCEDES E350 D 4Matic AMG Line Premium Plus 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty July 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, 5k, choice, half-leather **£30995**

18 18 MERCEDES E350 D AMG Line Premium 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes July 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 8k, silver, half-leather **£27495**

18 18 MERCEDES E350 E AMG Line Premium 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 13k, blue, half-leather **£28995**

16 66 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic Sport Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, grey, full leather **£21995**

18 18 MERCEDES GLC 220d 4Matic AMG Line Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Mercedes Warranty August 2021, pan roof, rev cam, 10k, grey, full leather **£27995**

18 68 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic AMG Line Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Auto, Mercedes Benz warranty Sep 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 20"alloys, 4k, choice, full leather **£28995**

18 68 MERCEDES GLC220 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, night pack, 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, 4k, choice **£27995**

17 67 MERCEDES GLC250 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, 20"alloys, 15k, black, full leather **£26995**

18 18 MERCEDES GLC250d 4Matic AMG Line Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes April 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 20"alloys, 13kj, white, full leather **£28995**

18 18 MERCEDES GLE250 D 4Matic AMG Night Edition 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 10k, black, full leather **£32995**

18 18 MERCEDES GLS350 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic 7-Seater, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, night pack, Harman kardon, sat nav, pan roof, 13k, white, full leather **£44995**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 D Sport 4dr, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 28k, red

£15995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, sat nav, xenons, 20k, choice

£19995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, 15k, choice, half-leather

£19795 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES GLE250 D 4Matic AMG Night Edition 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 10k, black, full leather

£32995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 2dr Convertible Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 9k, black

£26995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic AMG Line Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Auto, Mercedes Benz warranty Sep 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 20"alloys, 4k, choice, full leather

£28995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, white, half-leather

£21995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 MERCEDES C250d AMG Line 2dr Convertible Automatic, sat nav, rev camera, 17k, blue, full leather

£21495 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 13k, choice, half-leather

£20495 NO BUYERS FEES

14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 4dr 7G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, white

£14995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 67 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line 2dr Convertible Auto, Mercedes warranty March 2021, 19"alloys, sat nav, 9k, silver, full leather

£22995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 MERCEDES C300 AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 7k, choice, half-leather

£27995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr, xenons, cruise, 18"alloys, grey

£12995 NO BUYERS FEES

15 65 MERCEDES C350e Sport Premium Plus 4dr Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 41k, silver, full leather

£17995 NO BUYERS FEES

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At last! A home winner for the Welsh Grand National

On and Off the Turf with Brian Lee

JOCKEY Jack Tudor, 17, from Merthyr Mawr and trainer Christian Williams of Ogmore-by-Sea made horse racing history at Chepstow Racecourse during the Christmas holiday when scoring a brilliant win in Wales' most famous horse race, the Welsh Grand National.

The horse involved, *Potters Corner,* ended the 54-year wait for a Welsh victory as *Norther,* trained by Denzil Jenkins in the Vale and which won in1965, was the last horse trained in Wales to win the race.

Former novice champion point-to-point rider Tudor drove his mount home to a length and a three-quarter win over *Trucker's Lodge* and told the press: "These are the races you dream of winning as a kid. My parents said I used to cry until they took me outside and sat me on a horse and I shut up then!''

The horse is part owned by Welsh Rugby Union international player Jonathan Davies and although returned at odds of 8-1, was at 33-1 leading up to the race.

Christian Williams in the 2007 Welsh Grand National riding *Halcon Genelardias* and giving the winner *Miko De Beauchene* 1st 7lbs, was beaten just a head in the race and, but for a mistake at the last, might well have won. Christian was also second in the 2005 race on *Hero's Collognes* which was well beaten by *L'Aventure.*

Racegoers from the Vale also had plenty to cheer about in the previous race when Tim Vaughan's *Eva's Oskar* and Evan Williams' *Clyne* fought out the finish, with victory going to the former by two-and-a-half- lengths. A 17-2 chance, *Eva's Oskar* was partnered by stable jockey Alan Johns.

Ten things you might not know about the Welsh Grand National

1 The first Welsh Grand National was held at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse in 1895 over a distance of two miles and four furlongs and was won by *Deerstalker*, partnered by former Flat racing jockey George Mawson.

2 More than 40,000 racegoers flocked to Ely Racecourse in 1896 to see the famed Aintree hero 12-year-old *Cloister*, ridden by Wales' Gwyn Saunders-Davies, beat the five-year-old *Greenhill* by two lengths.

3 In 1901, only four of the original 28 entries went to post and *Gangbridge,* ridden by his owner Mr Herbert S Sidney, came home 15 lengths ahead of *Kirkland,* the 1905 winner of the Aintree epic. To this day *Kirkland* remains the only horse actually trained in Wales to have won the Aintree Grand National.

4 The 1925 Welsh Grand National went to the Keith Piggott ridden *Vaulx,* which came home 10 lengths ahead of *Old Tay Bridge,* which was unlucky not to have won the Aintree Grand National.

5 In 1927 victory went to 13-year-old *Snipe's Bridge* which remains to this day the oldest winner of the race at Ely Racecourse. *Snipe's Bridge* was partnered by Willie Gurney and won by a length from the seven-year-old *Animated*.

6 The attendance at Ely Racecourse in 1936 was reported to have been the highest in years, no doubt brought about by the appearance of the legendary *Golden Miller,* a winner of an unprecedented five Cheltenham Gold Cups and a Grand National. Sadly The *Miller*, which carried top weight of 12st 7lb, could only finish third behind *Sorley Boy* and *Free Wheeler.*

7 The only Welsh Grand National to be held at Newport's Caerleon Racecourse was in 1948 when 10-year-old *Bora's Cottage*, trained by Captain Ryan Price and ridden by Eddie Reavey, won at odds of 100-8.

8 Before Christian Williams' *Potters Wheels* won in 2019, the last time a horse trained in Wales won the race was in 1965 when former Welsh point-to-pointer *Norther*, ridden by Terry Biddlecombe and trained in the Vale by Denzil Jenkins, who during the war had commanded a squadron of fighter pilots, beat the Fred Winter-trained *Quintina.*

9 In 1991, the Martin Pipe-trained *Carvill's Hill,* shouldering a hefty 11st 12lbs, left his 16 rivals trailing when coming home 20 lengths ahead of *Party Politics* under Peter Scudamore.

10 In 1993, *Riverside Boy* gave trainer Martin Pipe his third successive win in the race when ridden by Richard Dunwoody. The previous year he had won it with *Run For Free.*

* Adapted from Brian Lee's *The Welsh Grand National – from Deerstalker to Emperor's Choice* and published by The History Press at £14.99.

More wins for Evan Williams and Connor Brace

HEREFORD Racecourse has always been a lucky one for Llancarfan's Evan Williams and last Friday his seven-year-old *BallyBreen*, partnered by Connor Ring, landed the three mile and one furlong British Racing Handicap Chase at odds of 16-1.

BallyBreen got home by half-a-length from *Eaton Miller* with the favourite *Kilcrea Bridge* a further two-and-a-half lengths away in third place.

However, a 280 mile trip to Plumpton on the Sunday failed to pay dividends when his nine-year-old *Billy Bronco* was never in the hunt in the handicap chase and was pulled-up by stable jockey Adam Wedge.

Conor's Wincanton winner

BRIDGEND'S Connor Brace continues his good form and last Saturday at Wincanton, riding *Hurricane Harvey*, the odds-on favourite for his boss Fergal O'Brien, Connor won the novices' hurdle.

Another Welsh jockey who had plenty to smile about at Wincanton was Sean Bowen, who won on 12-1 shot *ItsOnlyRockAndRoll* and 16-1 chance *Sir Irvan*.

Evan Williams's *Sign Of War*, under stable jockey Adam Wedge, won the novices' handicap chase at Chepstow on Monday (6/1/20). The six-year-old, which was returned at odds of 11-1 won by one-and-a-quarter lengths from *Lady Kingsmill*.

Brian Lee

Winter golf continues at Brynhill

AFTER the recent heavy rain, the course at Brynhill Golf Club was reduced to 16 holes for Sunday's four ball better-ball winter competition.

Top of the pile on the day were Peter Cooper and Colin Lewis – a bit like balsamic vinegar and strawberries these two, it's a weird pairing that works, their 43 points being enough to bump Mickey Perry and Phil Underdown into second on a back nine count back, with Richard Pierce and Gareth Davies securing third.

AS

Ben makes an early start on his hole-in-one tally

GETTING a hole in one at golf is always a big deal but as with life itself, the share out isn't always fair.

Some top quality professionals look back on their career and wonder why they never had one, while there are distinctly average players out there who claim maybe half a dozen.

So, there will plenty of club golfers who will be more than a touch envious of Ben Browne, who has just recorded his first at the age of just 12!

What's more, Ben can claim a 'proper' hole in one – one that did not depend on a lucky bounce.

If you talk to golfers who have recorded holes in one, they can sometimes be a touch evasive. They're a little bit reluctant to recall that the shot was heading for a greenside bunker before taking an unlikely kick!

However, Ben has rock solid evidence that his shot headed straight for the pin, with no lucky bounces involved.

Ben, who is in his second year at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, was playing at Cottrell Park with the club professional Gareth Bennett, who is also coaching him.

Ben's father, Peter, told The GEM: "They were on the Button course, and on the second, a 105-yard par three, Ben took out an eight iron.

"It's a blind tee shot, with a hump in front of the landing area, but they thought Ben had come close when they heard a metallic sound just as the ball landed.

"When they got there, the ball was in the hole, and the pitch mark had carved a piece out of the lip of the cup!"

He added: "Ben has been out hitting a ball since he could walk, but has started having lessons and playing more seriously for just over a year.

His handicap at the moment is 29, and he is hoping to kick on next year!"

St Mary's seniors are out with the old and in with the new

FOR their last game of 2019, St Mary's senior section played an individual stableford competition.

Due to the gloomy weather and soggy course conditions, the field of 23 opted to play the match over a reduced course of just 12 holes.

The players did, indeed, find muddy and wet conditions throughout and the greens were not at their usual best due to a lack of respite from the seemingly incessant rain. Scoring, nevertheless, was reasonable with a level par 24 points sufficient for former captain Hugh Williams to claim the victory. Ray Stacey was placed second, one point back on 23 .

Just two days later, for their first game of 2020, just 14 members teed off in another stableford competition played over an even shorter course of 10 holes.

At close of play, current captain Steve Phillips and Jon Paton were declared joint victors, each carding a two better than par score of 22 points.

NL

Local Bridge Clubs – all the latest news and results

Penarth Bridge Club

RESULTS from Penarth Bridge Club are as follows:

December 17: first, Jim Elder and Meryl Skipper (55.0 per cent); second, Carol Cochlin and Philip Bottrill (54.2); third, Peter Craig and Marnie Owens (53.8). First on handicap, Carol Cochlin and Philip Bottrill.

December 19: N/S Dennis and Sue Patrick (68.3 per cent); E/W Yvonne and Alan Simons (65.0).

December 20: first, Mike Downey and Trish Tracey (66 per cent); second, Jim Elder and Meryl Skipper (58); third, Rod and Angie Hudson (51).

Penarth Bridge Club is a warm and friendly club that meets every Tuesday and Friday at Trinity Church Hall, Woodland Place, CF64 3EN.

Barrivale Bridge Club

RESULTS for Barrivale Bridge club on December 17 are as follows:

First, Denis Mottram and Ken Hannah 70 per cent; second, Peter Millar and Kay Dyer 57.50; third, Hilary Laurence and Vivien Liles 52.50.

The handicap winners were Hilary and Vivien.

Bridgend Bridge Club

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

On December 18: First, Tony Disley and John Evans; second, Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham; equal third, Tony Haworth and Kevin Maddox, and Debbie Lea and Emer Disley.

On December 19: First, Marjorie Halley and Sheila Gass; second Ivor Hicks and Stuart Norton; third, Leila O'Hagan and Margaret Roach. The winners on handicap were Marjorie Halley and Sheila Gass.

On December 20: First, Dave and Debbie Lea; second Simon and Debbie Richards; third, Emer Disley and Bill Turner. The winners on handicap were Dave and Debbie Lea.

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club.

RESULTS for January 6 are as follows:

First, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox 65.91%; second, Glyn Williams and Vida Halford 65.63%; third, Alan and Elaine Robins 63.02%.

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Frustration as Athletic lose out in top-of-table clash

BRIDGEND Athletic's eight-match winning run came to an end with a late try securing a 24–19 home victory for Dunvant.

First-placed Athletic and third-placed Dunvant had fought out a 20-20 draw at Newbridge Fields in September and this game was also a very attritional battle, in doubt until the final whistle.

In the first minute Dunvant carried over a kick ahead by Ath wing Sam Richards to concede a five-metre scrum. The Ath went blind but spurned an overlap and a try went begging. It was the home side who were first on the scoreboard from a 35-metre penalty by outside half Richard Lewis.

The Athletic struck back when a series of pick and goes from halfway, with front row forwards Lee Murphy and Nathan Holman and flanker Sean Williams prominent, and a mid-field break by Sam Richards forced Dunvant to concede a penalty inside their own 22. Outside half Jacob Lloyd was on cue to level the scores.

Ath flanker Ben Howe ran a good angle to break into the Dunvant 22, where the home side again illegally halted the move with the same consequence, a second Lloyd penalty.

Dunvant had the opportunity to level but their penalty struck an upright and was well cleared by Athletic debutant full back Geraint Roberts. The respite was short lived as the very large Dunvant pack kept play very tight with a series of pick and goes inside the Athletic 22, resulting in a short range try for prop Sam Martin. The conversion gave Dunvant a 10–6 advantage.

Good Athletic interplay with Matthew Muir, Ben Cording and Holman and Murphy again saw a pattern of Dunvant illegally halting the move and Lloyd punishing them with his third penalty. The Athletic opted to put another kickable penalty into the corner and trust their driving maul. Though the maul was halted the Athletic were awarded a scrum.

Centre Dan O'Sullivan committed the Dunvant defence with a strong surge and when the ball was released, quick handling saw lock Ben Cording free wing Sam Richards to race over in the corner. Lloyd's excellent touchline conversion gave his side a 16–10 lead.

With three minutes remaining in the half a quick Dunvant tap penalty was halted on the Athletic line, but flanker Adam Gregory was on hand to pick up and dive over. Lewis converted to put the home side 17–16 ahead.

ABOVE: Sam Richards goes over for a try. Photo by John Canon.

With the final move of the half a big hit from Athletic centre Dan O'Sullivan saw Dunvant penalised for holding on. Lloyd's 45-metre penalty fell just short.

Within two minutes of the restart Dunvant were caught offside and Lloyd's fourth penalty gave the Athletic a narrow 19–17 lead. The Athletic then produced a 40-metre lineout driving maul with the referee awarding three penalties during the drive. The final penalty illegally pulling it down saw the referee's patience run out, consigning the Dunvant No 8 to the sin bin.

Prop Matthew Greenman was introduced for his Athletic First XV debut. However, the very large Dunvant pack was starting to have more of an influence on the game. The Athletic held onto their two-point lead with big performances from the back row of Ben Howe, Sean Williams and Ben Davies who, on one occasion inside his own 22, picked up from a retreating scrum and made 25 metres, until the 77th minute.

In trying to halt a driving maul down the right touchline the Athletic defended very narrow. When the ball came back to Dunvant outside half Hill he spotted wing Mark Roberts all alone wide on the left-hand touchline. His cross kick allowed Roberts to touch down with no Athletic player within 20 metres. Hill converted to give Dunvant a 24-19 lead.

The Athletic tried everything with the final play to retrieve the situation but saw both their unbeaten run and top spot evaporate simultaneously.

Athletic head coach John Apsee was disappointed saying "We had three good scoring opportunities to take the game away from Dunvant in the first half. Sean Williams just edged Athletic man of the match ahead of fellow back row forwards Ben Davies and Ben Howe. Full back Geraint Roberts made a pleasing debut with Jacob Lloyd, Dan O'Sullivan and Sam Richards the pick of the back division."

AB

Celtic come out on top against Pencoed in free-scoring encounter

Flank forward Tom Mines scores for Maesteg Celtic. Photograph by Allan Aubrey.

MAESTEG Celtic continued their run of home wins with a 35-17 defeat of Pencoed.

It was an unusually loose game with both teams spreading the ball at every opportunity.

Celtic nailed their colours to the mast in the first minute when captain Oliver Petty picked up from the back of a scrum on half way and ran down the blind side. He drew the wing and passed to man of the match Sam Mines who sprinted down the touch line, dummied a pass to wing Aaron Williams, before stepping inside the fullback to score.

Five minutes later normal service was resumed. Outside half Tom George kicked a penalty to touch in the visitors' 22 and hooker Morgan Reeves found jumper Kieran Power. The pack drove him towards the line before Sam's brother Tom detached and sprinted over for the touchdown. George kicked two penalties and Pencoed responded with one by Rhys Clarke before Celtic scored their third try.

Flanker Tom Mines broke through the Pencoed defence on half way and linked with prop Sean Lambert who took the ball on. Lambert passed back to Mines who fed prop Simon Lent, who was brought down just short of the line. Number eight Oliver Petty gathered the ball and drove over for the try. George converted.

The second half was as open as the first. Pencoed closed the gap when Celtic spilled the ball in the visitors' 22 and they returned it 70 metres to score under the posts through Shane Izatt, converted by Clarke.

Celtic's bonus point try was another team effort. Number eight Petty ran from a scrum on halfway and linked with Sam Mines who ran clear. He linked with full back Morgan Lloyd, who passed to centre Kristian Jenkins. When he was stopped he found top try scorer, flanker Jonathan Davies, arriving at pace to touch down. George converted.

Pencoed never gave up and took advantage of a Celtic error to run in their second try through Tony Millington.

The Celtic three quarters continued to attack. Wing Scot James finished a 60-metre move with a touchdown in the corner but the referee was unsighted and disallowed it. Another great effort saw full back Morgan Lloyd brought down just short. The referee awarded a yellow card for a defender killing the ball and Celtic opted for a scrum. A powerful drive allowed number eight Oliver Petty to touch down. Roll on Heol y Cyw!

KS

Tondu let chances slip at Skewen

LEFT: The Tondu front row get ready for a scrum.

RIGHT: Sam Grabham goes on the run.

TONDU were away to Skewen and opened with an early try from flanker Jonathan Penpraze following a lineout and rolling maul.

It was a deserved lead as the visitors piled on the pressure in the early stages of this Division One Central West encounter.

Anthony Buselli's well-judged penalty put Skewen on the scoreboard a minute later before Jacob Thomas slotted a penalty for Tondu, that concluded the first half scoring but Tondu would have been a little disappointed they were not further in front.

The second period brought two more penalties for Buselli, even though the visitors had plenty of chances to increase their advantage, but white line fever was the main reason Tondu did not add to their score during the second half.

When the Skewen centre went on a splendid solo run to crash over in the corner, Tondu were left with the knowledge that missed chances would probably cost them dearly. Buselli's conversion put the home side 16–8 in front, with little time on the clock for a Tondu come back.

Nevertheless the Tondu coaching team would have seen encouraging signs from this display as they go about preparing their side for the visit of Bonymaen to Pandy Park next Saturday.

Report by Mike Sully

Photographs by Gareth Anthony.